by England THE INDEPENDENT eting wome THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

Saturday 27 December 1997 70p (IR65p) No 3,492

We're giving up the demon drink in droves .. Or are we?

nation woke up to stinging, tongue-shrivelling, stomach-

ciety, founded more than 160 years ago to offer financial and demographic category." policies to people who abstain people of all social classes.

Turnbull, said: "We are seeing ber of people abstaining from the recognised sensible maxialcohol and this manifests itself products over the past few cent in 1994-95, and from 9 per years. Our membership stands cent to 13 per cent of women. at more than 28,000 and is expanding steadily."

He claimed there were now more than a million non-drink- ing nature, rather than voling adults in the UK. One of the ume. We are becoming more places with the highest rates of abstinence was Scotland.

Andy Willis, executive director of the British National be a small minority pursuit. Temperance League, said: (The word was an early sound-"Temperance is growing in popularity, especially among the 25 bite, coined in 1833 and simply emphasising the T of Total. It to 34 age group where numbers means keeping off all alcohol, abstaining from alconol bave more than doubled in the past - 17 years."

The Recbabites was founded in northern England in the 19th century to help workers secure a future for themselves and their families. Now the society well, by this evening at the very provides medical insurance, latest.

Well, they certainly chose their and savings and life assurance moment. As large swathes of the policies to people from all walks

Mr Turnbull said: "The pubtwisting hangovers, a temper- lic are starting to turn away from ance society yesterday predicted alcohol. While it is important to that more and more of us will keep the issue in context, we are give up booze in the New Year. definitely seeing the emergence The Rechabites Friendly So- of a trend, and this is a trend which transcends social class

It is hardly surprising, perfrom alcohol, said temperance haps, that a temperance society was making a comeback, among is claiming success. But the Government's Social Trends Its chief executive, William survey for this year recorded an increase in the number of men substantial growth in the num- and women drinking more than mum amounts, from 25 per in increased demand for our cent of men in 1984 to 27 per

> Most surveys of British drinking habits have found that' alcohol consumption is changenthusiastic about wine, and slightly less enthusiastic about beer. But teetotalism seems to not sumply spirits.)

> However many Britons are swearing, one way or another, to mend their ways this morning, the evidence suggests that most will be stiffening their resolve with "a small one" by ...

Hunting dogs are poisoned



The Western Hunt gathering at Madron, West Cornwall, yesterday. Hounds belonging to another hunt, the Tredegar Farmers' Pack, in Gwent, were allegedly poisoned; inside story, page 5

INSIDE TODAY

Classy Cole keeps United purring at the top of the Premiership. Full Boxing Day sport: Time Off

Christmas TV and radio: how was it for you? Page 15 Arts

> Night ow s: as you prepare for the New Year. meet the

> > animals



Magazina

O°C NIGHT

Angry MPs to ask Mandelson why he won't speak to the Commons

Peter Mandelson is to be asked to explain himself to a Commons

u sponsor Shand

committee after claims that he has been refusing to answer MPs'

questions. Our political correspondent reveals a parliamentary assault on Tony Blair's most controversial minister.

Once a month, Mr Mandelson appears before the House for five minutes and answers just nsor her children one question about the Millennium Dome. Now he could face a whole raft of questions from MPs about why he is not more accountable to them, as the ministerial code on open

government requires. Rhodri Morgan, a Welsh Labour MP and chairman of the Public Administration Committee - one of the most influential in the Commons - has asked officials to look at how previous ministers without port-

He will write to Mr Mandelson asking him to explain why he failed to give full answers to written questions from Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. If he is not satisfied with the reply he could

decide to hold a full inquiry and call the minister to give oral "If the problem persists in the new year there will be a polite note to the minister without portfolio to ask how he can reconcile his answers with the

code," Mr Morgan told The In-

He added that David Clark, who heads the Cahinet Office. Mr Mandelson's department, "has taken a very strong line that, with freedom of information coming in, it is best for ministers and civil servants to get used to it and to get into that

spirit now". Although the committee had no powers to force a minister to answer questions, he added, it did have the power to ask him to explain evasive behaviour.

Mandelson never answers oral questions on anything but the ordinates government policy

across all departments. Tony Blair has told Mr Bak-

Mr Baker has written to Mr vide information only when dis-Morgan to complain that Mr closure would not be in the public interest". It adds that where information is withheld, dome, even though he sits on 11 a relevant exemption under the cabinet committees and co- code-for example national security or commercial confidentiality - must be quoted.

But Mr Baker has compiled er in a written reply that Mr a dossier of wrinen answers giv-Mandelson can be questioned en by Mr Mandelson which he

EXCLUSIVE BY FRAN ABRAMS

through written questions. However, the Liheral Democrat MP says Mr Mandelson's written answers have been so evasive that they have broken a ministerial

For example, when asked

ister without Portfolio."

of occasions on which he had complained to the media since dome. Details of his trip to 2 May about reporting of the Government, and was referred to an answer given five months earlier to the Conservative MP Nick Hawkins. The answer, a newly elected Labour MP. when tracked down in Hansard,

turned out to be: "No". When asked to list details of the journeys he had taken at the public expense since May - a question answered in great detail by many other ministers -Mr Mandelson replied: "I have travelled at public expense wherever this has been necessary to the fulfilment of my ministerial responsibilities."

Mr Baker argued that the minister without portfolio was exploiting a lack of clear rules about the duties and responsibilities of someone in his position. He asked the committee to hold an inquiry and to take oral evidence if necessary.

Mr Mandelson's spokesman, Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, said he had asked the Leader of the House, Ann Taylor, for an ex-

son, asked in November for a list tra 10 or 15 minutes each month to answer oral questions on the France had been given just before Christmas - five months after Mr Baker's original query in response to a question from Jacqui Smith.

Some questions, such as those on how often Mr Mandelson spoke to journalists, were too costly to answer.

The whole point about being a minister without portfolio is that you don't bave a portfolio. When Mr Mandelson was given responsibility for the dome he was granted oral time in the House to answer questions like that," he said.

Mr Mandelson asked for extra time at Questions just days before another Commons committee, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, said his fiveminute slot was inadequate. Its report said such was the lack of information on the dome that it was "not so much a journey through time as a journey into

> .. Time Off, page 2 The Eye

Web address: http://www.

they are forced onto the streets by poverty. Frail and ill, they are vulnerable to freezing weather. In winter 1995, 74 people perished while sleeping rough, in London alone. You can help Harry - and hundreds like him - survive this harsh winter. Send £25 to Crisis today. We'll use it

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on these wide-ranging issues says do not fit in with the code.

code on open government.

The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information says that ministers "should be as open as possible with Parliament and the public, refusing to pro-

what were the objectives of his recent visit to France, Mr Mandelson replied: "I do not propose to disclose the details of conversations, meetings or other engagements undertaken in pursuance of my duties as Min

Mr Baker, who has been a dogged pursuer of Mr Mandel-

The Name of Page 28 and Time Off, page 10

independent.co.uk

TODAY'S NEWS

Straw gets tough

The Home Secretary's plans to stop soccer hooligins from going to this summer's World Cup finals by slapping restriction orders on them are unworkable and will not tackle the root of the problem, football supporters and the police said yesterday. Page 4

Computer blues

You've finally got that computer you wanted. You got it out of the box on Christmas Day and you'll still be struggling to master it next Easter. It's not your fault. The machines are programmed up by brilliant but anti-social nerds.

Don't despair... hope is on the horizon. Page 3

Soviet spy secrets

Foreign Office documents revealing the sensitive hehind-the-scenes moves that led to the biggest explusion of soviet spies in British history are to be released early in an unprecedented gesture of "open government".

X COLUMN ONE

Life in the fast lane 'is cruel to mice'

The notion of an Irishman hanning racing sounds absurd. On learning that he is referring to mice racing, it sounds even more absurd.

Billy Kelleher, a Flanna Fail main government party representative, is leading calls for a nation-wide han on that little-known sport involving placing a bet on a mouse. Seeing how the rodents run is, he says, nothing short of cruel.

Mr Kelleher made his demand following reports that Galway's University College in Cork had provided runners from its laboratory for a mouseracing festival. He branded the festival, which is being staged this weekend in the Co Galway village of Ballymacward, "a Mickey Mouse event" and urged its cancellation. "The university should maintain its squeaky-clean image," he said. "Providing mice for a racing festival hardly enhances it. In fact, it damages Ireland's national image. I was surprised that the university should agree to provide mice for the festival, even if it was for fundraising purposes. It is cruel, and an alternative should be considered."

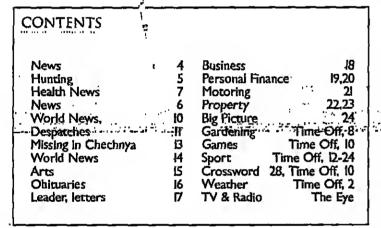
Mice racing may sound silly, but apparently it is a lot of fun. So much so that seven years ago two Americans, Harvey Coffee, 64, and Boh Dohhins. 63. set up "Gateway Downs Mouse Racing" in St Louis. "My wife thinks I'm a little crazy, but she goes along with it," said Mr Coffee, who breeds the domestic mice in a barn near his home. They take the mice on tour, doing shows at schools, churches and halls. The track is 12 feet long and instead of circuits there are "dashes". The favourite is, of course, "Big

Mr Coffee's and Mr Dobbins's mice-racing venture is so popular that it is booked up six months in advance. To help newcomers to mice racing, they publish a racing programme called the Racing Daily News, which provides statistics on each mouse's racing history and comments such as "looking for roses" and "hasn't shown much". Most patrons, however, do not study the form closely, but prefer to go by the names.

A night out with the mice usually includes six or seven races, which are run about 20 minutes apart. Mr Coffee, who used to dance at a certain Casa Loma Ballroom, hegins each race by opening one of the "paddock cages" and pulling out a mouse by its tail. He dances back and forth, dangling the mouse by its tail before putting it into a starting gate.

And Mr Kelleher says this sport is cruel ...

| TOURIST RATES | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| Australia (dollars) | 2.44 | Italy (lira) | 2,814 |
| Austria (schillings) | 20.05 | Japan (yen) | 212.97 |
| Belgium (francs) | 58.96 | Malca (lira) | 0.62 |
| Canada (\$) | 2,32 | Netherlands (guilders) | 3.21 |
| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.83 | Norway (kroner) | 11.78 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 10.94 | Portugal (escudos) | 289.69 |
| France (francs) | 9.54 | Spain (pesetas) | 240.73 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.86 | Sweden (kroner) | 12.59 |
| Greece (drachmei) | 453.96 | Switzerland (francs) | 2.31 |
| Hong Kong (\$) | 12.47 | Turkey (lira) | 327,339 |
| (reland (punts) | 1.11 | USA (\$) | 1.62 |
| | | • • • | te: Thomas Coal |
| | | Rates as on 24 December 1997, for Indica | tion purposes out |





ZITS

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

PEOPLE



Rising star: Michael Adams as a 12-year-old playing the former world champion Boris Spassky

Adams moves to the fore in chess showdown

An era ended on Christmas Day when Niget Short. Britain's leading chess player for the last 10 years. was knocked out of the World Chess Championship by Michael Adams, the heir apparent to the British grandmaster's throne.

Short was defeated by Adams in the International Chess Federation (Fide) championships in Groningen, in the Netherlands.

Adanis, 26, now meets the man who began as favourite for the event. Between now and the end of this year, he will play a four-game match against the Indian grandmaster Visqanathan Anand.

They last met in a World Title qualifier three years ago when Anand, who is now 28, won by the impressive margin of 51/2 to 11/2. But in those days, Adams was only Britain's second best player. The next few days will be a good indication of how much he has improved. Whoever wins will still have to overcome Anatoly Karpov, the reigning Fide champion, in a match for the title.

But even that will not be the final burdle. For the world's number one player, Garry Kasparov, refused to participate in the current event. As soon as this event is over, negotiations will surely begin for a showdown match to establish who really is the best chess the match as Adams' attack broke through. player in the world.

Short had enjoyed the fruits of his position at the pinnacle of British chess since 1993, when he qualified for a World Title match against Garry Kasparov. By comparison, his results since then have been disappointing, hut he had returned to his hest form in the World Championship which was run, for the first time, as a series of two-game knockout matches.

After eliminating several players rated higher than himself. Short came up against Michael Adams in the semi-finals of the eliminators. After losing the first game, he came back with an impressive equalising win. By the rules of the competition, they then. had to play two games in which each player started with only 25 minutes thinking time on his clock. With considerable prize money (£220,000 to the winner) as well as reputations at stake, both men played cautiously and both games were drawn. They then moved on to two games at 15 minutes each. Two more careful draws. The final tie split was a play-off in which White twho has the advantage of moving first) starts with five minutes while Black has six. Suddenly Adams changed strategy and adopted what looked like a risky attacking plan with the black pieces. It paid off beautifully, and Short resigned the game and

America's favourite comic leaves the stage

Jerry Seinfeld, the New York standup comic who created and gave his name to the most-watched show in the history of American television, is calling it quits. The decision, he says, is all about timing.

After nine seasons of making Seinfeld, the comedian and his mat they will be making their last sitcom that will take its place on the pantheon of television comedy gems alongside the likes of MASH. Cheers and I Love Lucy. "I wanted to end the show on the same kind of peak we've been doing it for years." Seinfeld told yesterday's New York Times. "I wanted the end

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

second most popular television show in the United States during this last season it became the most watched show ever produced by the industry. In many ways, it became a signpost for Nineties's East Coast culture and society.

Its demise is a disaster for NBC. colleagues told the NBC network. The network was reportedly al- anything wrong with that". episode next May. Thus will end a 1£617.0001 per episode. After acrimonimus negotiations last spring, it agreed to give his main co-stars, playing Elaine, George and the barmy, hair-style impaired, neighbour, Kramer, \$600,000 each per show.

Scinfeld, set in Manhattan, each week alighted on one seemingly trifling challenge of urban life - such to be from a point of strength.". as exiting a supermarket and not While Seinfeld is currently the being able to find the car or the

terrors of being a horrible dancer - and turned it into 30 minutes of killing hilarity.

Among phrases that were spoken first on Seinfeld and then entered the everyday lexicon were "Yada, yada, yada" (roughly "hla. blu, bla"), and "Not that there's"

fered Mr Seinfeld something around \$5m a show to keep it in production beyond next spring, but money was apparently not the main issue, "It was an extremely difficult thing to do. This show has been the greatest love affair of my life," Seinfeld said, "But we were all together on it. We all felt we

wanted to leave in love." - David Usborne, New York

Labour attacked by guru

A political thinker credited with having a profound

influence on new Labour, criticised the Government

yesterday for cutting lone parents' benefits without first showing that work was available for them. Amatai Etzioni, the founder of Communitarianism, has

met Tony Blair. He is said to have influenced the new

wording of Clause Four of Labour's Constitution,

which replaced nationalisation with a statement that

Interviewed on BBC Radio yesterday, Professor

Etzioni, who is hased at George Washington Uni-

versity in the United States, suggested that the de-

eision to ent benefits was "not very communitarian".

The notion of getting people off before there is real,

solid evidence that we have provided them with work

or opportunities to find work, is too punitive ... we

don't have the evidence that work will be available."

"the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe".

UPDATE

Abandoned dogs on the increase

Dozens of dogs have been abandoned on Britain's streets over Christmas. The number of strays arriving at Britain's leading home for abandoned dogs has increased steadily since Christmas Eve. Staff are working round the clock to care for unwanted Christmas pets at Battersea Dogs' Home in south London, which has housed 33 animals left to roam the city's streets over the past three days - 8 per cent more than last year.

A total of 706 abandoned dogs are at present at the centre and the spokesman Stephen Danos said he expects this figure to increase over as the festive season. "What is worrying is that if the number of stray dogs in the home is up now, just a few days into Christmas, what will it be like in late January?" he said. "On the whole older dogs are being abandoned." perhaps being displaced by a new puppy."

The 137-year-old sanctuary for abandoned dogs saw nine new arrivals on Christmas Eve, a dozen more on Christmas Day and another 12 by midafternoon today. A struggling fox terrier rescued from the icy waters of the River Thames was among the first Christmas strays to arrive at Battersea on Christmas Day. It was rescued by a passer-by who waded in to save it and then took it to the home.

The RSPCA last night urgently warned pet owners to be more responsible as workers hrace themselves for the number of strays to increase in to the

LAW & ORDER

Academics to check out bouncers



Burly bouncers are to be the target of undercover academics as part of a new study in which researchers will lift the lid on the hurgeoning economy in the private policing of pubs and clubs,

Dr Dick Hohbs, a criminologist of Durham University, has been given £116,000 from the Economic and Social Research Fund to try to find out what makes bouncers tick and how revellers are controlled. Lifeline, the Manchester-based drug support and information agency, will also help with the study. Dr Hobbs said: "Sanctioned violence, or the threat of violence. from paid thugs is the usual method of controlling the potentially volatile atmosphere at venues. There is this world which we walk past but we don't know what goes on." The study, The Art and Economics of Intimidation, will look at the options available to establishment owners and try to find the best way to police drinkers, and, increasingly, drug users. An undercover academic will take up a joh as a bouncer in the North East. Similar jobs may also be sought in the North West, London and elsewhere. Dr Hobbs has carried out a number of undercover studies into Britain's criminal underworld and has had books and articles published about his work.

THE DEMON DRINK

Demand-for-alcohol drying up' -

a temperance society has claimed. The Rechabites Friendly Society, founded more than 160 years ago to offer financial policies and services to people who abstain from alcohol, said temperance was making a comeback.

Its chief executive William Turnbull said: "We are seeing substantial growth in the number of people abstaining from alcohol and this manifests itself in increased demand for our products over the past few years. Our membership currently stands at more than 28,000 and is expanding steadily.

He said there were now more than a million non-drinking adults in the UK. One of the places with the highest rates of abstinence was Scotland. Andy Willis, executive director of the British National Temperance League, said: "Temperance is growing in popularity, especially among the 25 to 34 age group where numbers abstaining from alcohol have more than doubled in the past 17 years."

POLITICS

Festive cheer for Hamilton

After a year with little to celebrate, Neil Hamilton has received some cheering Christmas news - he has finally managed to beat Martin Bell at the polls. The disgraced former trade minister came third in an award for the male politician of the year, and Mr Bell came fourth.

A poll of 800 customers at Politico's bookshop in London, many of them MPs, placed him beneath only Tony Blair and Gordon Brown for the man of the year title. The Prime Minister came top; and the chancellor second, Michael Portillo was fifth while William Hague managed only minth place with 4 per cent of the vote. There was good news, too, for Mr Hamilton's wife Christine; she swept the board in the "Parliamentary secretary of the year" category, with hundreds of nominations. Last night Mr Hamilton said he was delighted. "I can only put it down to the news coverage which The Independeni gave to me," he said. Harriet Harman was ranked "Worst Labour minister," with 51 per cent of the vote, while Peter Mandelson came second.

The John Lewis Clearance. It's like a sale, only better.

FIRST DAY MONDAY AT PETER JONES - Steams Square, JOHN LEWIS OXFORD STREET, BRENT CROSS ABERDEEN, CHEADLE EDINBURGH HIGH WYCOMBE, FIRST DAY THESDAY AT JOHN LEWIS BRISTOL PINGSTON, MILTON KEYNES, PETERBOROUGH WELWYN BAINBRIDGE-Newcattle, BONDS-Normich, CALEYS-Windser, COLE BROTHERS-Shuffleld HEELAS-Prading JESSOP & SON-Normingham, KNIGHT & LEE-Southees. GEORGE HENRY LEE-Liverpool ROBERT SAYLE-Cambridge TREWINS-Walford TYRRELL & GPEEN - Southampton

At John Lewis Department Stores, even during a clearance, it's business as usual. For instance our pricing policy, summed up by 'Never Knowingly Undersold',

means that if we find a local retailer offering the same goods at a lower price, we will reduce ours accordingly, even if their goods are in a sale. We still deliver

free across a wide area. And whatever you buy, you can return it if you are not completely satisfied. The John Lewis Clearance. It's better than a sale.



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gs on the increase





Record sales bargains attract record turnout

Britons had barely digested their turkey before they started queueing outside stores in order to get a headstart in the sales. From 6am yesterday - three hours before stores opened consumers were standing on pavements preparing to de-scend on the higgest January sales in years. It was a record turnout, for record reductions.

The House of Fraser department store in Glasgow usually expects around two dozen early birds. "There were around 60 shoppers and we had to open all our doors instead of just the usual main door," a spokesman said. "A lot of our merchandise has discounts of up to 50 per cent," Card holders will receive an extra 10 per cent off purchases.

Marks & Spencer, BHS and Habitat are among those who start their sales today. Thomson's, Britain's largest tour operator, is also having a sale from today, with savings of up to £100 per person for summer holidays booked in January. Those wanting to bargain hunt at Harrods will have to wait unol 7 January, when the singer Cher will launch the sale.

At the new branch of Furnitureland, in Manchester, which opened for the first time yesterday, the atmosphere was shoppers pouring into the store stock.

at 10am prompt. Transactions were not just on interest-free credit either, according to Roger Handley, the store's marketing director. "There's definitely a lot of cash credit around," he said. Among the most popular purchases there was a 6ft wide bed reduced from £999 to £499, with an additional £50 knocked off because it is being sold a new

Keen gardeners in Bristol queued for an hour outside the department store. Gardiner Haskins, to beat the rush to the popular seed stand. Packs of vegetable and flower seeds had been reduced from around £3 to just 15p. Allan Weeks, 57, a van driver at the front of the queue, said: "I have come here every year for four years.It is like an annual pilgrimage."

The Bristol branch of Curry's had knocked up to £200 off computers, £120 off fridges and £100 off video recorders. Sony Playstation computer game consoles are so popular that they did not have to be reduced. "We had totally sold out before Christmas, but now we have restocked and they are in such demand we don't need to put them in the sales." said deputy manager, John O'Connor. Several stores carried notices from "absolutely heaving", with Sony apologising for the lack of

Computer world struggles to bridge comprehension gap

Computer programmers really are nerds who are turning the rest of us into computer anoraks too, according to new research. As thousands of children and their parents struggle with the instructions of their Christmas computer, Louise Jury investigates reasons for the difficulty.

So at last you are joining the electronic age, Santa delivered a computer and you have been sitting there since Christmas lunch trying to fathom it out.

It is not working. Somewhere along the line there is a major comprehension gap. This may not be your fault.

Dr Paul Nightingale, of Sussex University, says the problem is that the people who make technology know about technology by definition. They do not understand those of us who

problem they are solving is very different," he said,

"You need a certain kind of mathematical genius to juggle the ideas to make elegant [software] designs. But hrilliant minds aren't very good at ordinary things like washing and shopping. They are what you could call very loosely coupled

"So they're not necessarily people work and how software most important woman in Bill

do not. Their perception of the is used. They don't understand Gates' life is prohably his housethat secretaries might want to stop for a chat, because they do everything by e-mail."

Take Bill Gates, founder of the Microsoft company and now a hillionaire whose hobby is attending physics lectures him thus in his book, Accidental Empires: How the boys of Silicon Valley make their million. battle foreign competition and still any good at understanding how can't get a date: "The second

keeper, with whom he communicates mainly through a personal graphical user interface - a large white board that sits in Gates' bedroom ... Bill can communicate his need for dinner at 8 or for a new pair of Robert X Cringely, describes socks (brown), all without baving to speak or be seen.

Dr Nightingale, whose research at Sussex's Complex Product Systems Innovation Centre is aimed at trying to overcome this problem, said

Gates is not alone. Computer obsessives were more than happy to avoid traditional human contact. "And they programme their perception of work into their computers."

Effectively, this forces the rest of us to behave like a computer nerd too. We have to think like them to use their soft-

Professor Roger Needham, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University and head of Mi-

project there, said it was undoubtedly the case that many people thought computers were gratuitously difficult to use, But it was very difficult to discover exactly what people understood.

"If you read Which? [consumer magazine) on the subject of gas cookers or washing machines you'll find some products being criticised for being difficult to use. You would think we'd know bow to get those

If people really differed in how they use computers then it would be difficult to satisfy them all, Professor Needham

"We know some things don't suit everybody, but if you offer all the options that in itself is repellent'

His advice to anyone with a new computer was to get it to do something. "Then you begin to feel in control. It's when you can't get it to do anything that it's extraordinarily frustrating."

· for Hamilton

Bearing Perils and pitfalls that await the unwary on the World Wide Web

If, after much tweaking of wires and banging of keys, you've finally got the computer you bought for Christmas connected to the Internet, congratulations ~ your problems are just beginning. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, on what to beware when you're surfing.

A growing body of evidence indicates that the Internet is a terrific information resource - but that it is also increasingly the target for get-rich-quick schemes and scams aimed at the unini-I tiated.

For those who have barely stumbled onto the World Wide Web, a vital first stop may be a site run by a husband-and-wife team in the town of Olney, Maryland.

Called Scambusters, and located at .http://www.scamhusters.org it is dedicated to warning newcomers about the They can usually only get it if cut. In fact, if you give our your

latest frauds - some very sub- it appears in a Web page, or if details, any flow of money will tle - being perpetrated on the Net. They include sending people e-mail telling them that a bill is outstanding, and that the recipient must ring a number or

The bill is fake - but the phone number connects to a recording in the Caribbean. with charges which can be up to £10 per minute. One of these companies used its connection through a British company, Demon Internet, and sent e-mails to thousands of Americans telling them to call a number prefixed with the code "809". While most ignored it, some did call and found themselves listening to a slow recording telling them their call would soon be dealt with. Demon cut the company off and is considering taking further action.

But those who have just logged on have one advantage: the people who send out such e-mail - known as junk e-mail. or more colloquially, "spam" (after the Monty Python sketch) -do not have your address yet.

if you post your normal address in one of the thousands of discussion groups, or "newsgroups. Anyone considering doing that should look first at else the bailiffs will be calling. the information offered by the

Scambusters on avoiding letting the "spanners" get your address - for once they have it. they will relentlessly send you details of pyramid schemes (illegal in the US and UK), multi-level marketing schemes (which are guaranteed to fail). and wonder products and share tips which will generally do exactly the opposite of what is forecast for them.

Another wrinkle to watch for is sites or e-mails which ask for your credit card or bank details. A number of Californians have recently been contacted with offers to take part in the "Nigerian bank" fraud - except they aren't told it is a fraud. The message says there is a huge amount of money for which they want ping-off place, offering you a

you type it in to a Web page, or he out of your account, not in. Yet the problem of "spam". both in newsgroups and e-mail, continues to grow. There are an estimated 13 million pieces of junk e-mail sent every day - each one imposing its cost on the re-

ceiver, rather than the sender.

The problem is worse with

news postings. According to DejaNews, a US company hased in Austin, Texas, which archives newsgroup postings, there are about 730,000 new "posis" every day, taking roughby 5,000 Mb (5 gigabytes) of storage - vet two-thirds of that is either "spam" (including pyramid schemes) or messages sont by systems administrators trying to remove those unwanted messages from the system.

"Newsgroups are a tremendous source of information and exchange used by over 24 million people around the world," said Guy Hoffman, head of Deja News. "Unfortunately, a small number of individuals to use your account as a stop- and companies are abusing the Usenet to the detriment of

crosoft's new £50m research right by now." the HMV massive Top quality titles at Clearout prices



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BBC romps home in festive ratings battle

The BBC1 comedy Men Behaving Badly attracted 15.5 million viewers, making it the most popular Christmas Day television show, the BBC said yesterday.

The programme, screened at 10.20pm, involved a catalogue of Yuletide disasters for flatmates Gary and Tony, played by Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey. Their antics beat the grumblings of Victor Meldrew (actor Richard Wilson) in BBCI's One Foot In The Grave.

which had 15.1 million viewers. Some 12.4 million people tuned in to EastEnders, with the comedy sporting quiz They Think it's All Over close behind on 12 million viewers, according to provisional figures re-

leased by the BBC. The television première of the Jim Carey film The Mask, also on BBCI, attracted 9.9 million viewers.

The Queen's Speech was watched by 8.2 million people on BBC and 3.8 million on ITV. On ITV, the highest viewing figure was 12.6 million people

for Coronation Street. Its second higgest attraction was an hour-long episode of Emmerdale, which attracted 9.4 million.

The BBC spent £42m on its Christmas schedule this year. It traditionally invests more than ITV and it normally wins the ratings battle at Christmas hands down. Last year, for example, BBC1 alone accounted for 54 per cent of all Christmas

Day viewing - more than twice advertisers, the drinks, chocothe proportion of those who watched ITV.

The corporation invests so heavily at this time of year he- sions are being made. By cause the ratings victory it gets at Christmas picks up its average audience share for the year as a whole. It also knows that ITV is unlikely to invest so heavily because advertisers like to advertise in the run-up to Christmas hefore people do their Christmas shopping.

There is a marked difference in the price of air time during the last two weeks of December compared with the first weeks," says Mike Gorman. media director of Saatchi and

"It happens because the gift they do lose the hattle."

lates, fragrances and so on. want to get on air from mid-November when purchasing decimid-December it is all over for them and they stop advertising."

There is also a feeling that ar times of hig national events. from the World Cup Finals to Royal Weddings, and including Christmas, the nation tends to turn to the BBC. "It becomes a self-fulfilling

prophesy," says Mr Gorman. There is no intrinsic reason why ITV cannot take on the BBC. But they seem to think they'll lose the ratings battle so they don't schedule their best stuff which in turn makes sure

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Straw in move to tackle World Cup hooligans

Football supporters and police yesterday cast doubts on plans by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to prevent convicted soccer hooligans going to this summer's World Cup finals. Louise Jury checks out the criticisms.

The Football Supporters' Association yesterday warned that Jack Straw's proposals to crack down on football violeoce tackle the root of the problem.

Mr Straw is writing to the Crown Prosecution Service and all courts to encourage them to

France. Uoder the Foothall lice need to be taught how to appointed time. He gave the exvicted of soccer-related offences can be made subject to an order which prevents them ground are being well-behaved. from travelling ahroad to matches involving England and

They must report to a police statioo at the time the game is taking place and can be prosecuted if they do not comply.

But Alison Pilling, of the Football Supporters' Association, said this would not help because it would only apply to people convicted hetween now and the World Cup finals, oot were unworkable and did not to people who already have convictions. "It is not really going to have much effect as a measure against hooligans and ... I think it is going to prove unplace restriction orders on of- workahle." The real problem, fenders in an attempt to limit she added, was how the tourviolence at the tournament in nament was organised. "The po-

small group of hooligans when the vast majority of fans in the

"As we saw in Rome, the problem was really bad organsation before the game and the Italian police being very heavyhanded hecause they did not know how to deal with a small group of trouhlemakers."

Detective Inspector Peter Chapmao, who heads the National Criminal Intelligence Service's hooliganism uoit at Scotland Yard, also questioned the usefulness of restriction orders, which have been used only 10 times since 1989. He told BBC Radio4's The

World At One that the legislation contained an "anomaly" because the police could not arrest a convicted hooligan until he failed to report to police at an

Spectators Act, people coo- deal with the problem of a ample of someone obliged to report at 4pm on Saturday, "The nonsense of it is I can see that individual pass through Heathrow five or six hours earlier, knowing full well he is going to that particular football match and can't do anything about it. I don't have the power to stop him."

Tony Banks, the sports minister, speaking on Radio 4's Tiday programme said he was aware that some hooligans were not "mindless morons" but "very calculating, professionaltype people with jobs, whose game is violence, but who are using football as the vehicle for violence". But he said the courts had shown themselves "remarkably reluctant" to impose restriction orders, which was why the Home Secretary was issuing the reminder.





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warned today. Introduction of new drug

treatment and testing orders was a major plank of Home Secretary Jack Straw's flagship Crime and Disorder Bill, published this month. But in a report today, the Chief Inspector of Prohation. Graham Smith, said that in some parts of the country supervision of addicts in the community by prohation services was often "unsatisfactory"-

There was "a demanding agenda of work for probation policy-makers, managers and practitioners if the Governmeot's proposals on drug testing and treatment orders are to be effectively implemented". he said. A sample survey of probation services showed that in most areas the supervision plans drawn up for offenders with drugs problems were "inadequate", the report said.

spectors studied came up to 02tionally laid down standards, which was a "significant contributor" to the unsatisfactory supervision of offenders. "Often the plans were too general and unspecific, lacking clear objectives and identification of responsibility for action, etc," the report said.

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In some areas, the problems of fewer than half the drug abusers who were referred to the probation service were properly assessed. "Some representatives from health aod voluntary agencies did express concerns about drug misusing offenders being 'sentenced to treatment' and it was clear that in some parts of the country, and in some agencies, it was unlikely that this view would change easily," it said.

On the plus side, it said the majority of offeoders receiving drug treatment - up to 80 per cent in some areas - were judged to be cootrolling or reducing their drug misuse, with the standards of supervisioo satisfactory or better.

Teenager hanged in cell

An investigation was underway yesterday after a 16-year-old boy was discovered hanged in a police cell. David Parsons was found dead by officers at 7.10pm on Christmas Day at Cockert police station, in Swansea.

South Wales Police said the tragedy was being investigated by the Police Complaints Authority and the Swansea coroner Richard Morgan.

A Home Office pathologist was also called to the scene and was carrying out a post mortem examination yesterday. The Welsh force refused to give details about the circumstances of David's death or why he was heing held in cus-

Yesterday his parents Tony and June were being comforted by relatives at their home in Penlan, Swansea, just two miles from the police station where he died. A family spokesman said: "Everyone is very distressed ... We are still waiting to find out exactly what happened."

Boy abandoned in mix-up

A five-year-old boy was reunited with his parents yesterday after they accidentally left him at a petrol station.

The couple drove off separately from the Tesco's garage in Dunmow, Essex without realising that their son, Kyle Collins, had gone off to buy some sweets. The boy had slipped out of Mrs Collins' car while she paid for petrol, and when she returned she presumed he had got in her hushand's car which had already left. The couple, from Elsenham, drove for more than hour before they heard a police appeal on BBC Radio Essex alerting them to the situatioo.



Water world: some of the swimmers taking part in the annual Boxing Day dip in the sea at Torquay yesterday Warning on drug treatment plan OVER 75 GAMES IN STORE CRASH BANDICOOT 2 SATE 200 449.00 Fewer than half the plans in-TOSHIBA 19716

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Saboteurs accused of poisoning

A fortnight ago masked activists set about hunt supporters with baseball bats and Iron bars. Yesterday they allegedly

poisoned the hounds. lan Burrell says the incident spoilt an unexpected atmosphere of seasonal goodwill on hunting's busiest day.

The "Antis" had come to protect the fox. The police who stood between them and rival a year to outlaw hunting, behunt supporters were there to cause of the opposition we will stop the two-legged creatures tearing each other to pieces. But by the end of the most

important day in the hunting programme the chief concern was not for fox or human but for seven dogs lying stricken with

The hounds, from among the Tredegar Farmers' Pack in Gwent, had allegedly been dehunt saboteurs. The accusation was promptly and angrily denied by hunt protesters, who said no animal-lover would do

such a thing.
But David Mills, spokesman for the British Field Sports Society in Wales, was unrepentant. It is absolutely appalling. These people simply do not care the traditional Boxing Day parabout animals, I would just like to be able to show them the dogs," he said. "The vet has said folk. one is going to die. It was in a coma and has stomach contractions and is vomiting."

Earlier in the day, activists had come in their thousands to protest against blood sports and, against expectations, no blood was spilt.

Police fears of violence were based on clashes a fortnight ago at the Hursley and Hambledon Hunt when three people were injured and 42 arrested after some Christmas spirit. hooded activists carrying wooden staves and metal hars at- League Against Cruel Sports, tacked hunt supporters and wrecked their cars.

Yesterday, however, the supporters of the inedible were prepared to speak to the unspeakable, albeit in distinctly unreverential language.

At Maldon, Essex, where 300 people gathered for the start of the hunt, Chief Inspector Dennis Rensch was as it was not frosty," she added.

impressed with the degree of courtesy extended. "It's a very contenuous political issue at the moment and the demonstration was noisy and passionate, which is what we expected," he said. "I'm aware of no violence and I don't think anyone overstepped the mark."

Among the protesters was Angela Smith, Labour MP for Basildon and Thurrock, "I'd like to think that this will be the last Boxing Day when we see hunts taking place across the country," she said. "But I think, being realistic, it will take longer than face in the House of Lords."

The future of hunting is under threat from Michael Foster MP's Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, which is unlikely to succeed. However, Tony Blair has indicated that the Government will allow annther opportunity for a ban to become law within two years.

Among the more famous of liberately targeted by renegade the 280 huots taking place yesterday were the Belvoir, Berkeley, and Quorn.

Staghound, harrier, beagle and draghound meetings also took place.

The Prince of Wales, who often rides with the Beaufort hunt, was expected to miss the meeting in order to take part in tridge and pheasant shoot on the Sandringham estate in Nor-

The large turn-out at many of the hunts yesterday prompted supporters to claim further evidence of widespread opposition to Mr Foster's bill.

But the MP saw it differently. "This proves that it is not a pestcontrol method but entertainment," he said.

Despite the fate of the Tredegar hounds, the two sides seemed determined to show

Kevin Saunders, of the said: "Everything has gone off peacefully, without people get ting out of control."

Pamela Morton, of the British Field Sports Society, said 3,000 had turned out to support the hunts. "All things considered, it has been a good day, without any serious trouhle. The hunting was good too.



Katie Lees protesting in Crewkerne, Somerset, where the Seavington foxhounds meet Photograph: Richard Austin



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Hounded out: The Quom hunt at Ashby Foleville, Leicestershire, yesterday, when the main casualties on the most important day in the hunting programme were neither foxes nor humans, but dogs Photograph: Raymonds



Is this room really travelling at sixty miles an hour?

"Would you like another top-up?", our congenial host enquired. Smiling, I held out my near-empty coffee cup across the table.

Sitting face to face also allowed the conversation to continually flow, as the Mercedes V-class effortlessly wended its way toward our destination. Stretching out, I had to remind myself that our luggage was securely stored behind us.

From the corner of an eye, I noticed the verdant scenery blur by like the brushstrokes of an impressionist painting.

Although, if truth be told, the whole experience seemed slightly more surreal. After all, who has ever heard of a room travelling along at a steady sixty miles an hour?

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Foreign Office opens secret files on the Cold War spies

The dramatic secret consultations that led to the expulsion of 105 Soviet spies in 1971 are to be released by the Foreign Office in advance of the 30-year rule in an unprecedented gesture of 'open government'.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) historians have had access to intelligence documents and official papers to write the history of East-West relations at the height of the Cold War. It is the first time since the Second World War that a government has allowed the publication of any inside information in advance of the rule which blocks the release of papers for at least 30 years.

Among the files are details of how, in 1971, the new Tory administratioo under Edward Heath decided to get tough over the scale of Soviet intelligence activity in Britain, and an attack on Henry Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State.

Many of the files will remain unavailable to the public. But where the information is no longer regarded as a threat to intelligence operations or to international relations, correbe released verbatim - in two volumes, with a historical cootext provided by the FCO historians.

A previously confidential memorandum to the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, from Sir Alec Douglas-Home, then Foreign Secretary, and Reginald Maudling, then Home Secretary, in July 1971, laid out in detail the problem of Soviet spying in Britain. They concluded that there were at least 120 intelligence agents in Britain and the total could exceed 200.

The various Soviet estab-

EXCLUSIVE BY LOUISE **JURY**

bassy, the trade delegation and the Moscow Narodny Bank, employed more than 500 people between them, making the Soviet delegation to Britain the largest of any country in Western Europe. The memo concluded that if the Soviet delegation to the United Nations was excluded, there were more Russians in Britain than even in the United States.

The volumes also detail the Soviet reaction, much less extreme than had been feared.



Heath (left), tough on spies,

There was, though, a freezing of relations and the Moscow establishment made life very difspondence and memoranda will ficult and confusing for the new British ambassador in Moscow, Sir John Killick.

> In an appeal to the FCO for information to help him in his oew post, he was left intrigued by the workings of Soviet intelligence. Apparently baffled, he asked "whether the KGB, for all their resources and efficiency, are out of their minds?"

The papers are expected to give details of the revelations of Oleg Lyalin, a KGB defector to Britain in 1971, who admitted he was responsible for plans to sabotage a radar station in lishments, including the em- North Yorkshire, built to give

missile attack.

Other areas likely to be covered include Gerald Brooke, a businessman falsely held on spying charges in Moscow and eventually released in exchange for the Krogers - Jewish-Americans whose real names were Morris and Lona Cohen. The Krogers were originally involved in the Rosenberg spy ring which was responsible for stealing atomic bomb secrets from the United States in the early Fifties.

The papers will also make it clear that Britain remained highly suspicious of the alleged US detente with the Soviet Union. They reported that Dr Kissinger had come to see the ground-breaking Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Helsinki as a positive obstacle to his task of developing Soviet-American co-operation".

They feared he was influeaced by the Watergate affair and willing to stop putting the Soviets under pressure on human rights in order to achieve the US's own ends. Diplomats noted of Kissinger: "He often gives the impression that detente is primarily a matter of intergovernmental accommodation and that the human aspect is

The volumes of papers are to be lannched at a special "witness seminar" which is expected to be attended by key international figures of the era. Lord Callaghan, the former prime minister; Lord Healey, former defence secretary; senior Foreign Office diplomats; and one-time heads of the intelligence services are among those invited to what is being regarded as an unprecedented gathering. Yuri Fokine, the Russian ambassador who was personal assistant to Andrei Gromyko as Soviet foreign secretary, has already indicated his enthusiasm to take part.



On the trail: Phil Sterling, moths officer for Butterfly Conservation, tracking the Blair's wainscot (below) in Dorset Main photograph: Richard Lappas



Blair's namesake is making a comeback

have been extinct for the last 50 years, has reappeared. The Sedina buettneri moth, otherwise known as Blair's wainscot, has had a fate seemingly tied to politics. It was first identified in Britain by a retired beetle expert at the British Museum, Dr K G Blair in 1946, just after Clement Attlee's landslide Labour victory. Then it was declared extinct in 1950. the year before the Conservatives were re-elected under Winston Churchill.

sighted in a secluded Dorset Labour's new year. river valley. Butterfly Conser-

A two-inch moth, thought to vation, which made the find, is keen to keep its exact location secret for fear that thousands of collectors will descend on the valley, destroying the

moth's only known habitat. Labour-voting moth lovers claim that the delicate pink streaks on the Blair's Wainscot are evidence of its left-wing credentials, perhaps particularly appropriate as Labour has just emerged from years in the wilderness.

It is not clear whether the moth, which faces an uncertain The Blair's wainscot was future, will be a talisman for

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Minister's son in cannabis case could get 'fast-track' justice

The Government faced criticism from its own back bench yesterday as it emerged that a cabinet minister's son arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis could be rushed through fasttrack' prosecution procedures. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent,

The Crown Prosecution Service could make an early decision on whether to charge the 17-yearold, it emerged yesterday. A fast-track procedure, which was meant to be for persistent of-fenders, might be used.

examines a growing

controversy.

Although the minister concerned has not commented oo the matter, it became clear that he persuaded his son to make a statement to the police after a newspaper investigation. The boy was said to have given information on his own supplier, and two of his friends were expected to be questioned. This swift action ensured that he could not be named under laws covering juveniles, and should also help his case for lenient treatment

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, and vicechairman of the Commons Drugs Misuse Group, said the use of fast-tracking would be wrong in this case.

"To do this to avoid embarrassment to a minister would be an abuse of the system," he said. "If the minister has got some responsibility for the law, for example if he is in the Lord



Office, he is going to be in a very difficult position.

The boy should be treated in exactly the same way as any other 17-year-old first-time offender, he added. The Government has con-

sistently taken a hard line on drugs. Earlier this week, the Home Office minister George Howarth criticised an Independent on Sunday campaign for the legalisation of cannabis, dismissing it as self-justification by middle-class journalists who took the drug themselves.

In October, Tony Blair rejected calls for a change in the

cannabis from him for £10. After being telephoned by

law on drugs after being asked

13 mooths after a first offence of supplying ecstasy to fricods. The Prime Minister's response was that he should be "severely punished".

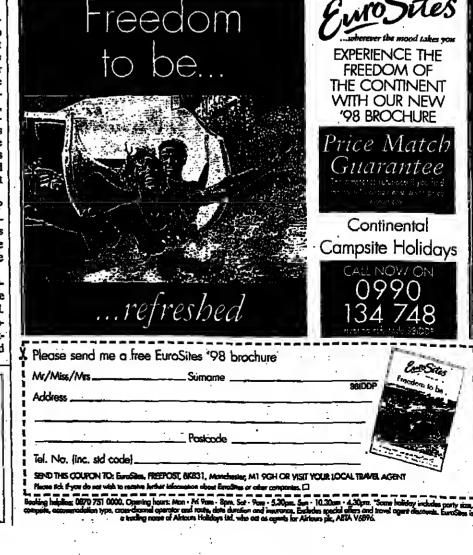
It emerged yesterday that the minister contacted Downing Street and then took his son to a police station after being telephoned by the editor of the Dai-Mirror, Piers Morgan. Two reporters had apparently spoken to the tecoager in a London pub oo Saturday oight and had claimed they bought 2 grams of

Mr Morgan, the minister spoke to his son and then informed the

Chancellor's or Attorney Gen- to commeot on the case of a Prime Minister's office. At 6pm eral's Department or the Home 19-year-old sent to prisoo for on Monday he accompanied the teenager to a police statico

where he made a statement. The fact that proceedings have been instituted against the boy means he cannot be named. Under the Children and Young Persons' Act of 1933, no newspaper report of proceedings in a youth court may identify the accused.

Although "fast-tracking" procedures in the Crime and Disorder Bill will not become law until the summer, a ountber of police forces already use them. They are designed to reduce the average time from arrest to sentence from around



7/HEALTH NEWS

The Bard's words that could unlock life's secrets

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause' - Hamlet's reference to 'mortal coil' in the 'To be or not to be' soliloquy may turn out to hold the key to immortality. reports Clare Gamer.

Scientists have discovered that Shakespeare's "mortal coil" actually exists - and could provide the answer to controlling ageing, they announced yesterday.

The "coil" is a spiral of DNA which becomes detached and replicates inside a cell until the cell is overwhelmed and

Scientists have identified the phenomenon in ageing yeast cells. They believe the same mechanism may be at work in cells of higher organisms, possibly even humans, and that blocking the process may ooe day provide a way of holding back or halting the ageing process.

The hreakthrough is the culmination of a series of important discoveries about ageing to emerge from studies of yeast by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The latest findings were published yesterday in the journal Cell.

The scientists, led by Professor Leonard Guarente, wrote: "It is remarkable that this mechanism of ageing in mother yeast cells is so simple at a molecular level. It is conceivable that inhibitors of this [ageing] process can be found, and if so, such strategies might eveotualageing in yeast and, perhaps, in

higher organisms." Their research shows that DNA pinches off a chromosome it begins to replicate. The coiled fragments, known as ERC (extrachromosomal ribosomal DNA), multiply within the oucleolus, a vital structure at the very heart of the cell, which produces the raw material for the cell's protein making machinery.

case

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Eventually the nucleolus is so stuffed with ERC coils that it hecomes blown up and fragmented. The cell's ability to replicate DNA breaks down and the cell dies.

The researchers said their data suggested accumulation of the cellular "mortal coils" may be like a time bomb. Wheo a certain time is reached - with enough coils replicated - the cell year.

is killed. Professor Guarente said: "The hest part is, it's obvious it's a clock. Set the clock early and the alarm rings

Damage to the cell may set the clock ticking, suggesting that, ironically, production of the fatal ERCs could result from the cell's attempt to repair itself. But the mechanism also appears to be inherited. The researchers thought it likely ERCs could form in "stem" or "progcnitor" cells in mammals. These are primitive cells from which mature cells form and are found in organs like the skin, kidney. and liver, as well as the bone marrow and blood.

 NHS fuods in Scotland are to he reviewed to determine whether resources can he more fairly distributed to reflect the needs of local populations, the Government has announced.

One of Britain's leading microhiologists Professor John Arbuthnott, will chair the steering group set up to consider the sharing out of funds across the whole spectrum of NHS care.

The Scottish health minister Sam Galbraith, in announcing the group, said that ensuring fairness in the distribution of funding was "fuodamental to the renewal of the NHS in Scotland". He added: "This steering

group will have a challenging task in seeking to achieve a sharing of health funds which is as fair as possible to all parts of Scotland.

"The current formula used for distributing some of these resources is oow 20 years old and it is high time we reviewed it." The review is also set to in-

clude the distribution of funds ly prove useful in forestalling to GPs, deotists, opticians and speoding of prescriptions. This, said Mr Galbraith,

would be in addition to money during a yeast cell's life, when- for hospitals and community

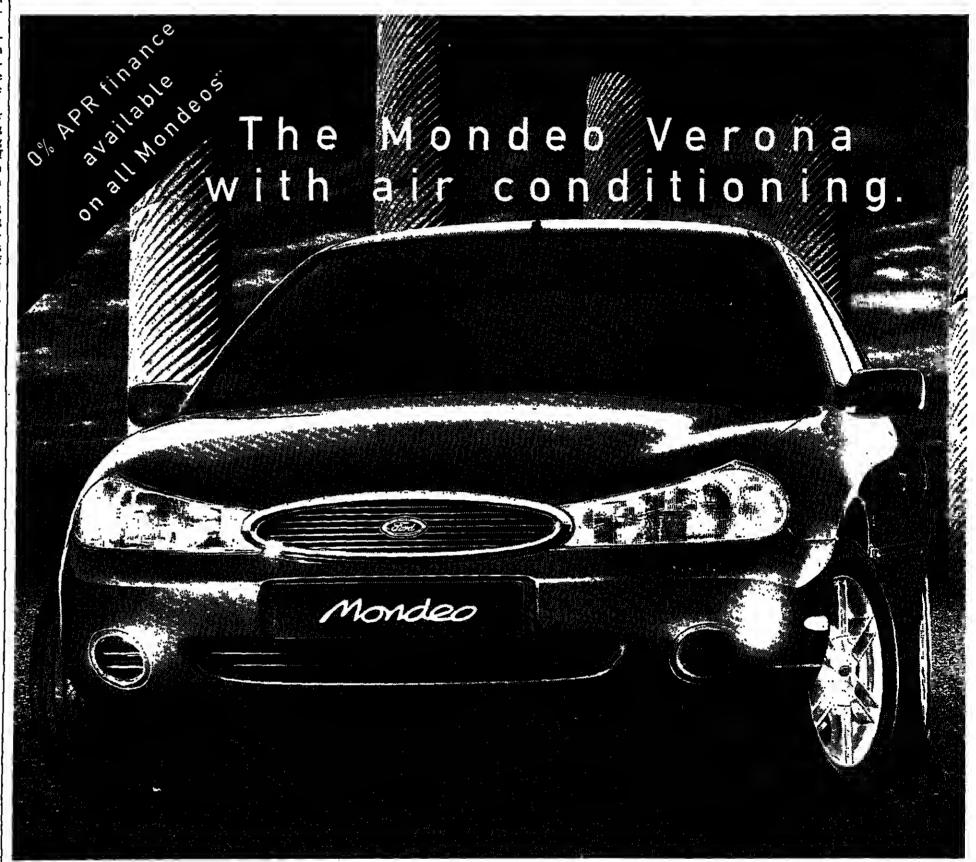
"It is important we take a strategic look at how the cake is cut across the board," he

Professor Arbuthnott, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde, said he welcomed the challenge of leading the steeriog group which "has a key role in shaping the future of the NHS in Scotland".

He has previously held posts as Professor of Microbiology at Nottingham University and at Trinity College Dublin, and is at present a member of the Board of the Public Health Laboratory Service. His colleagues in the steering group will be announced in the new



Laurence Olivier as Hamlet in the 1948 film version of Shakespeare's masterpiece. The 'mortal coil' Hamlet refers to in the 'To be or not to be' soliloguy may hold the key to controlling ageing



Seaweed's clue to tracking cancer

Ordinary seaweed, found on beaches across Britain, could provide scientists with crucial new information about the way cancer develops, a research team said yesterday. Researchers at the Uni-

versity of the West of England in Bristol have found a way to track the growth of deadly cancer cells in the body using a seaweed extract. They hope to use the technique to discover why some cancer cells break free from their original growth and travel potentially deadly secondary

The scientists are extracting the protein lectin from a type of seaweed found on most beaches. The process involves collecting 14kg of seaweed to extract just 5mg of lectin, which is then linked to a marker dve before it attaches itself to can-

The tive allows scientists to track movement of the cancer cells as they split off metastases, which can be much harder to treat than pri- said. mary cancers.

Although the seaweed dye does oot help scientists to learn why certain cancers are more deadly than others. they hope that it will teach them more about the chemical changes which make the cancer cells divide.

The lecturer Ray Griffin, who heads the project, said: "Maybe in the future it will help us to stop the cancer cells breaking off in the first place and I believe that will he a major victory." Mr Griffin added that the seaweed around the body, causing marker could provide more information for the diagnosis of cancer and also some "novel therapies".

The procedure, which uses protein from the Codium fragile variety of seaweed, is entirely natural. Mr Griffin was particularly excited by this aspect of his team's find. "It is really important at a time when we are cutting down the earth's rain forests that we use a product which is growing oaturally. Who knows what other useto form secondary cancers, or ful resources there are just waiting to be discovered," he

— Katherine Griffiths

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Mexico mourns its dead

International outrage is growing over the massacre of 45 Mayan Indians in Mexico's troubled southern Chiapas province. Yet the state governor shows no sign of resigning.

Survivors of this week's violence in the community of Acteal buried those killed when paramilitary gunmen stormed through a makeshift camp in a blaze of automatic gunfire.

Bill Clinton, the United States President, expressed his outrage. "He condemned the attack as a violation of the most basic human values, and, on behalf of the American people, extends condolences to the families of the victims," Mike McCurry, a White House spokesman, said in a statement. France called on Mexico to investigate the paramilitary groups believed to be behind the massacre.

But Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro, state governor of Chiapas, told reporters that he was not prepared to resign over the tragedy. "The

task now is not to lay blame, now is the time to apply the law," he said in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the state capital.

The Mexican press has been baying for

the governor's head. A Roman Catholic priest, Gonzalo Ituarte, had twice called Mr Ruiz's office with warnings of the carnage. Mr Ruiz said that his office had alerted police in the municipality of Chenalho after the first call and received assurances day, the Federal Prosecutor, Pedro Madrathat nothing was amiss. The slanghter went on for five hours. Meanwhile, the shattered families of Acteal, in Chenalho, returned through the mountains to the scene of the killings, carrying white chrysanthemums and candles for a Christmas Eve Mass said over the victims' coffins by Bishop Samuel Ruiz in Spanish and by local leaders in the Tzotzil Indian language. "May those who did this find peace with their souls and with God, and may they rid themselves not only of their murderous weapons but also their

attitude of hatred," the Bishop said. Women keened over tiny blood-soaked coffins while state prosecutor's officials set up typewriters under a canopy of banana leaves to register the names of the dead.

"In a halfway civilised country, these things can't happen - or at least not without very serious consequences," the Rev Oscar Salinas said after assisting at the grave-side Mass. "But [in the past] the Mexican government has been very insensitive.

... I'm not optimistic things will change. President Ernesto Zedillo has ordered an exhaustive hunt for the killers. On Thurszo, flew to Tuxtla Gutierrez to announce that 41 people were being detained for questioning. Four of the women killed were pregnant, he said, and almost all the victims had heen shot in the back as they fled. Monday's events were further cloud-

ed by survivors' testimony that the perpetrators were members of Mr Zedillo's own long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), but carried AK-47 rifles oormally supplied only by the army. Some reports said the families sympathised with the EZLN |Zapatista National Liberation Army), led by Subcommandante Marcos, who staged a New Year's Day uprising against the government in 1994.









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to arrive in two days. As the Santa disembarked he said: "Stop killing my children." Referring to the UN embargo, which has caused malnutrition. he added: "Violence leads to more violence. Stop using children in politics."

The plane was chartered by the Icelandic charity Peace 2000 Institute in collaboration with an Italian group called Bridge to Baghdad. Iraq says sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have caused the death of hundreds of thousands of children. A UN report said the measures had inflicted

widespread malautrition. - Reuters, Baghdad

Santa makes his Le Pen pays for race slur

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the extreme-right political leader, was found guilty of violating antiracism laws by repeating his view that Nazi gas chambers were "a mere detail" of the Second World War.

A court in the Paris suburb of Nanterre ordered Le Pen, president of France's National Front, to pay 300,000 francs (£31,250) for publication of the judgement in six daily papers and six weekly publications. Le Pen, who insists he is not anti-Semitic, was also fined a sym-

bolic one franc in damages. The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism was one of several groups to file suit after he said in Munich on 5 December that he still believed the gas chambers were just a detail of history.

Violence at Kenyan poll rally

Six people were hurt when ri- give it, fighting started," a witafter an election rally by the Philomena Okunde, Kenyan President, Daniel arap

Moi, in western Kenya. Trouble began when Mr Moi was leaving Homa Bay, Nyana crowd of about 1,000 people. "Some of his officials called for the Kanu (Kenya African National Union party) salute and when some people refused to

party supporters clashed ness said. The Kanu candidate, slashed on the neck with a machete; he blamed National Democratic Party activists for the fighting. Kenya goes to the za Province, after speaking to polls on Monday to elect a new parliament and president for a five-year term and also to vote for hundreds of candidates in local elections.

- Reuters, Nairobi

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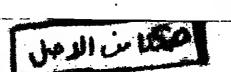
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Who killed this girl? The mysterious murder that still haunts America

Six-year-old JonBenét Ramsey was just one of the 2,000 or so children murdered in the United States last year, but her death shocked and fascinated America like no other. With no one yet indicted for the crime, Mary Dejevsky delves into the continuing mystery of who killed JonBenét.

It was one year ago yesterday that a millionaire company director by the name of John Ramsey discovered the small, timp body of his daughter in the basement of the family bouse in Boulder, Colorado. She had been beaten, tied and garroted with the stick of a paintbrush.

Eight hours before, the bubbly-haired blunde child had been thought kidnapped. Her mother, Patsy, bad reported finding a ransom note on the back staircase, demanding the very specific sum of \$118,000, equivalent to John Ramsey's Christmas bonus. Kidnap cases tend to be kept under wraps, at least in the early stages, and this was no different. Given the family's afflustar on the Colorado child beauty queen circuit, kidnapping seemed plausible.

He found her body, barely hidden in bedding, and carried her up to her room.

Before the murder, the name JonBenet Ramsey would have meant little to anyone uutside her immediate family and the cliquey child-pageant circuit in Colorado where she performed so successfully. Now, it would be hard to find an American wbo does not know who she was and, what is more, dues not have a view about her death.

Almost immediately, the weight of suspicion fell on her parents. The popular view, derived with cold logic from contemplation of the obvious - "it stands to reason, doesn't it?"-is that one or other parent must have "done it". The case fascinated in a peculiarly American way.

The family has money. Their vast house was in a wealthy suburb uf Boulder, itself one of the most sought-after places to live in America. The family also had celebrity, of a minor kind. Patsy Ramsey is a one-time contestant for the Miss America title. Her daughter, whom she appeared to be grooming to follow in her fontsteps, had won the title "Little Miss Colorado". There was video-film of JonBenét's beauty contest apyouth and success? Had John a perverted



ence and JonBenét's worth as a diminutive John and Patsy Ramsey. No one has yet been indicted for their daughter's murder

Photograph:AP

John Ramsey to search the house - again. of high-pressure rivalry between parents and children barely out of toddlerdom, of costumes, cosmetics and contracts as hardedged as any in the adult world.

JonBenét herself came across from the videos as a Nineties Judy Garland, shorn of even the presence of innocence, with manners and make-up suggestive far beyond her years. Friends and teachers, however, described her as unspoilt, reflective rather than showy, and normal for her age. But it was the videos that the rest of America saw, and surrounding her death seemed compelling. portedly not questioned until recently. The house bore no traces of forced entry and there were said to be no footprints in the snow around the house. Who would have had access to the house but the parents? Who would have known the sum of John Ramsey's bonus? And if an outsider was suspected, why did the police mount no manhunt for a dangerous killer?

Experts told television shows that the committed by someone in the family. Motives were easily imputed to each parent. Was Patsy perhaps jealous of JonBenét's pearances that revealed to America a sexual motive? Suspicions were fuelled by

It was not until evening that police asked world that many never knew existed; a world the parents' subsequent conduct: they hired separate lawyers, their own medical months to be questioned separately by police. They moved out of state, to Atlanta, Georgia, where they have family.

> While public opinion focused on the parents, the media concentrated on the police. "A hungled operation" is the general verdict. The house was not sealed after the kidnap was reported, and relatives reportedly came and went. The body was moved when John Ramsey took it upstairs - bethe combination of fact and circumstance fore the police saw it. Neighbours were re-

Month by month, new facts have trickled out: the text of the two-and-a-half-page ransom note, purporting to be from "a small foreign faction" and warning against going to the police; the position of the body, trussed around the stick; in the past week, evidence that a stun-gun might have been used to knock the child out before she was killed. But questions of substance bave not

overwhelming majority of child murders are been answered. A post-mortem examination supposedly did not prove that JonBenét had or had not been sexually assaulted. A DNA test was inconclusive. Four handwriting tests on Patsy Ramsey have left open whether she wrote the ransom note, but es-

tablished that the paper came from a notepad in the bouse, JonBenet's 11-yearand forensic experts, then refused for four old brother, Burke, was interviewed briefly early on and excluded from the investigation, except as a possible witness. Police sav they would like to talk to him again, and to Mr and Mrs Ramsey, but they are not apparently forcing the issue.

Some of those who blame police incompetence attribute it to inexperience: murder investigations are rare in Boulder. Others contend that the investigators were no less competent than many others - just unlucky in the way a supposed kidnapping turned into a murder. If a murder is not solved in the first two days, they note, it is many times more difficult to solve it at all.

Two weeks ago, in anticipation of an anniversary that the people of Boulder - but not of America - understandably want to forget, there were reports that the Boulder District Attorney was on the verge of bringing preliminary charges. The Ramsey parents, it was said, were to be brought before a grand jury so that the case against them could be weighed.

But nothing happened. It may be the season of goodwill, but in the case of Jon-Benét Ramsey, everyone is still free to believe the worst of everyone else - and does.



Photograph: Rex Features

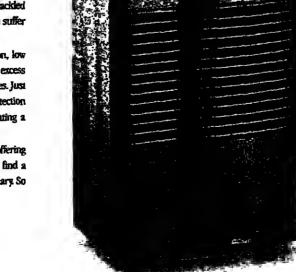
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'Little Miss Colorado': The child beauty queen JonBenét Ramsey was found dead

at home in Boulder on Boxing Day last year

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13/MISSING

The hostages These are just any of the thousands of people around the world who hve disappeared, held hostage for political ends oxidinapped for ransom. At first, there is hope: aransom demand, or perhaps even covert talks win the the kidnappers. But as time goes by, the lived ones that they have left behind becore more and more desperate.

CHECHNYA KIDNAPPERS' 800 VICTIMS

Russian officials claim that 800 hostages have been taken in Chechnya in the past year alone. The breakaway Russian republic, whose separatist leaders fought a bloody war of independence against Russian troops in 1994-96, has been rocked over the past 12 months by a wave of kidnappings of foreigners and Rus-sians by armed gangs seeking ransom money.

A Polish cnvoy, Zenon Kuehciak, yesterday flew to Chechnya to try in secure the release of five Polish aid workers abducted this mooth. He had previously wnrked in Cheehnya for nearly three years for the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in local language and has many contacts in the region.

On Tuesday the Polish Foreign Minister, Bronislaw Geremek, said the five young men, working far a Polish-Chechen

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friendship society and delivering aid, were abducted on 17 December after meeting Chechnya's former president, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

They were reported missing late last week by a Chechen with whom they were staying in the village of Samashki, about 20 miles west of Grozy, the region's capital. Their host had found their deserted minibus with the tyres shot out on the road to Grozny. There has so

far been nn ransom demand. After news of the Poles' abduction, the Russian Foreign Ministry said its security forces were taking "necessary measures" to free them and repeated an appeal to foreigners to stay away from the tiny Cau-Europe (OSCE), speaks the casus region. "This routine act of terrorism, which deserves strong condemnation, confirms that an extremely unfavourable, criminal atmosphere reigns in Chechnya," the ministry said.

On Thursday, five journalists

working for Reuters, WTN and two Russian television networks, ORT and NTV, went missing in Russia's southern region of Dagestan, which borders Chechnya, while investigating an attack there earlier in the week nn a Russian tank unit and police post.

NTV said its correspondent Dagestan had received a telephone call claiming a group calling itself the Dagestani People's Militia was holding several Chechens, including the journalists, as hostages.

The group said it would only free them in exchange for seven Dagestani police officers taken prisoner on Wednesday, the Itar-Tass news agency said. The police were among 11 ethnic Chechens taken prisoner, reportedly by Dagestanis, to avenge the kidnapping on Monday nf local residents in Dagestan by Chechen gunmen.

— Agencies

Families face nightmare wait for news of hostages

For some ritons there has been o feasting, and no relativs to celebrate or quarry with. Steve Crawshaw eports on the invisible out not forgotth ones.

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Perhapshe most famous Russian poel of the Secood World War, bykonstantin Simboov, is called Wait for Me".

Wait or me, and I'll return Onlyvait very hard ... Wait For I'll return, defying every death. Andet those who do not wait,

say that I was lucky. They never will understand hat in the midst of beath

me. lo more recent years, the poem has taken on adiffereot emblematic force. Imas beco quoted for those whowere taken hostage in Beiru - as relevant to them as it nice was to those who had bee sent to the front. A nightmar that is both personal and universal.

We have learn to take for granted that the hostages in Beirut eventuay returned. Books such as I ian Keenan's powerful account, An Evil Cradling - a blifling mixture of humour and heror - describe the reality hat cootinued through the retaphorical and physical darkess. Seen from to-day's perspelive, it seems ob-vious that Ban Keenan, John McCarthy all Terry Waite even-tually came ack, and took up al-most-ording lives. At the time,

with asual world-wear ness, dep-throat official sources sed to shake their heads, asuring journalists (fit background use only; quotation not perhitted) that nothing could b done. There was con fident iside-track speculation about there various hostages were rekoned to have died. Jill Morrel's fight, which success fully rised the profile of the missing hostages, was against that complacent ignorance, as much a anything else

It is a message that has not been los. The relatives of Camilla Carr and Jon James who were taken hostage in Circhnya in July, have relied on he lessons of Ms Norrell's campign to raise the profile of the miling couple.
One of the most important aims is that the two sould be re-membered. The cuple went to membered. The ciple went to Grozny to help with a children's charity there. Thy had body-guards, but the lar were unable to protect their Somewhere out there, the ty are alive. But not much moris known than that. Rumonished counter-rumours swirl ack and forth. There have ten unconfirmed There have in unconfirmed ransom demids – and beyond that, silence

Michae Penrose, an aid worker wheast year was held for severaleeks in Chechnya, noted at service for Camilla Carr and in James this mooth

that it is sometimes as difficult for those who wait as for those in captivity. As Brian Keenan noted after his own release, The words They also serve who only stand and wait' was never more true."

In Cambodia, British mineclearance expert Christopher Howes was abducted by the Khmer Rouge two years ago. His parents receotly placed advertisements in the Cambodian press appealing for information, but without success. There have been reports of Mr Howes' death, but always unconfirmed; equally unverifiable reports suggest he was still alive in May.

Most difficult of all for the relatives are the cases where death comes to seem increasingly loevitable, hut is still oot confirmed, Two Britons, Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, were among a group of Westerners seized by extremists in Kashmir two years ago. Most reports now say that the two are dead; some of the relatives themselves have more or less accepted it. But there is no confirmation of their fate - no verifiable account of how or where they may have dicd.

A decomposed body which was dug up in September was initially believed to be that of Mr Wells, but this proved to be a faise alarm. Given the experience of the Beirut hostages, it is still conceivable that they are alive. Nor can the families monra, until they have convincing proof of what has happened to the two men.

The handful of Britons who have been seized are outnumbered many times over by other oationalities who have been taken hostage worldwide. For the families of the hostages, there will only be one way to make a happy new year.

● Zamboanga (AP) — Muslim bandits reputedly linked to a rebel group freed a kidnapped German executive yesterday after 108 days of captivity in the southern Philippines. The abductors are believed to be renegade members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the biggest Muslim rebel group

still fighting the government. Robert Buehs, 50, a cannery executive from Rhede, Germany, was turned over to negotiators before dawn by four of his abductors after ransom was paid. The amount of the ransom and who paid it were not disclosed. However, a memher of the negotiating team said on that the abductors were paid some 6 million pesos (£92,600), representing "board and lodging" for Mr Buehs while in captivity.

Mr Buehs was handed over to his father-in-law, the chief of the local hranch of the National Bureau of Investigation. He was not available for comment.

The abductors brought Mr Buehs by boat from a nearby island to a coastal bridge west of Zamboaoga, and fled after completing the transfer, police



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Seoul's \$10bn lifeline fails to hide scale of debt crisis

Euphoria swept South Korea's battered financial markets yesterday as they responded to the international community's 'Christmas gift' of a \$10bn cash transfusion to avert debt defaults. Steven Vines reports.

The South Korean won, which has seen 50 per cent of its value wiped out since July, staged a record recovery, with a rise of almost 24 per cent. At one point in yesterday's trading it had surged by 31 per cent against the US dollar.

The stock market, which has been no less battered than the local currency, also took heart, rising by almost 7 per cent, more or less making up the

ground lost in a record-break- Hence the emergency which led rose to be the world's 11th-Dae Jung's commeot that he was "flabbergasted" about the state of the nation's finances. Although the emergency

transfusion of funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and 13 other countries, including Britain, averted the real threat of debt default, the size of South Korea's foreign dehts in comparison to its foreign-exchange reserves suggests the measures will hardly dent the mood of pessimism...

South Korea is believed to have short-term debts of \$100 bn (£62bn), \$15bn of which are due for repayment in the next few days. The total foreign debt could be as high as \$200bn. Last week South Korea's foreign reserves stood at little a battering-ram through the more than \$10bn. Attempts to get Seoul's creditors to roll over their loans provided futile. South Koreao economy, which

ing price fall on Moodoy which to the scramble at the beginning greeted President-elect Kim of the week to prevent the potentially higgest default in history. When South Korea's financial markets reopen on Monday they are almost certain to slip back.

They may well follow the pattern seen in Japan, where the Tokyo stock exchange saw a 5 per cent rise on Christmas Day in response to the rescue package announced on Christmas Eve. Yesterday that rise turned into a 3.25 per cent drop as investors rubbed their eyes and realised the threat of widespread corporate bankruptcies had not

South Korea is now in line to receive \$78bn in loans from the IMF and other institutions. In return the IMF has pushed door of the highly protectionist and heavily state-influenced

largest and managed to keep foreign investors confined to the outer fringes.

In addition to a raft of financial market liberalisation. transparency and other measures forced on the Scoul, the IMF has used the emergency package to squeeze yet more concessions. All restrictions on foreigner access to bond markets will be swept aside, while access to other capital markets will be further liberalised.

The restructuring of the financial sector, which in practice means widespread closures and mergers of ailing institutions, will be stepped up.

On the trade front, the iron doors keeping out imports will be thrown open and trade-related subsidies, which helped make South Korean goods highly competitive in foreign markets, will be cast aside.

Letters, page 17



Home: Tahar Madraswala is greeted in Ahmedabad, India, after a 12-year, 128,000km, 34-country bicycle tour to promote peace and brotherhood

Japanee party calls it juits

The leader of Jpan's main opposition party imounced the dissolution of the here year old party. In a boostor the belea-guered Prime Minster, Ryularo Hashimoto, the lew Frontier Party (NFP) chic Ichiro Ozawa. said formal disbandment would take plac today. NFP sources said he aid 100 MPs planned to form a new party next month. Othr NFP MPs would also bant together to form several newparties.

- Leuters, Tokyo

No entry

Chinese border gurds barred Woog Chung-Ki. aspokesman for Hong Koog's Jemocratic Party, from enterin, mainland China for a vacation. His wife and three fellow Democrats with him were allowed in. The guards would only say they were following orders, he said.

— AP, dong Kong

Jiang warning

President lang Zemin of China, eyeing joiential labour unrest next ear as economic reforms traslate into lay-offs. has ordered olice to step up efforts to safepard social stability, state melia reported. He told a law-eforcement cooference that adure to keep the social peac as China deepens reforms ould wipe out ecocomic achivements.

-Reuters, Peking

'Bird flu' found in two more children

Two more young children in Hong Kong were the latest to be diagnosed with the flu. fell victim to "bird flu" yesterday. There a government state ment said. have been 11 confirmed and 9 suspected cases and four fatalities. Although it is not overflowing with worried patients.

The flu, properly known as the H5N1 virus, was previously only found in poultry. Its spread in Hong Kong has shown it an be transmitted from birds to humans hut doctors do not know exactly how, nor of chickens for Hong Kong. if it can spread from human to human. A one-year-old boy, previously suspected of

Poultry markets have been temporarily closed and fumigated and hygiene inyet causing panic, hospitals and clinics are structions issued. The Chinese have been persuaded to impose a temporary ban on the export of poultry to Hong Kong, and measures are being taken to set up testing procedures before birds are shipped across the border. The mainland is the main source

Although official Chinese co-operation has been welcomed, there is concern having the virus, and a three-year-old girl over an announcement on Thursday in the

border town of Shenzhen thashipments should resume next week becase inspection procedures would be finaled by then. The Chinese say farms inspected showed no signs of the virus; there are tso no reports of anyone there having bit flu. But birds in China are known to hav died of it. Hong Kong has oo power to ba exports from the mainland; instead, it ha to rely on "voluntary" bans.

The virus is not necessarily a kier but. if not detected early ecough, it leads a complications which can he fatal.

Steven Vines, HongKong



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LLIAM

Men behaving crapulously

Television's prevailing fantasy of Christmas is a roaring fire, deep snow, a mountain of perfectly wrapped presents under a 20ft tree and delirious levels of bonhomie (such that passers-by chortle merrily as they snowball each other in the streets). All is warmth and prosperity, with the turkey gleaming as if it has been french-polished and every face around the table shining with contentment. Christmas trees don't have needles, toys don't need batteries and drinkers don't get

Rather unexpectedly you were given all of this in the Men Behaving Badly special on Christmas Day (BBC1), Simon Nye having decided to intersperse the domestic dystopia of Tony and Gary's flat with scenes of soft-focus Perry-Como-esque festivities. You first saw the boys walking through a Dickensian street scene, arms crammed with parcels as they exchanged greetings with the roast chestnut seller and jolly urchins; then you cut to the reality, a rain-drenched, litter-strewn market street. on which Gary was searching for an 11thhour Christmas present. Tony followed rather erratically behind, clutching a sprig ful". They hadn't actually managed in track of mistletoe with which he seduced passing dogs into a drunken exchange of saliva. "Happy f-ing Christmas to you too." snarled Gary, after the only stallholder still open had attempted to charge him £30 for her spare false teeth.

This alternation between two kinds of cliché - the delusive and the world-weary continued throughout the episode and proved rather effective, the programme being broadcast at a time when even the most determinedly seasonal viewer might have been beginning to feel a little crapulous. Those cloyed by synthetic visions of yuletide glee will have enjoyed the astringency of the pastiche; those slumped in festive anticlimax - exhausted by misconceived presents, compulsory good will and over-indulgence - will have relished the only mildly exaggerated reflection of their own day. The jokes seemed a good deal perkier than they have in the last few episodes of the series, though they were as dependent as ever on the staples of feminine exasperation and male oafishness. This being the season of licence and unrule, I found myself watching with two six-year-olds, and I can report that they both found the inevitable willy joke hilarious to the point of abdominal pain.

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CHRISTMAS **TELEVISION**



REVIEWED BY THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

Gary and Tony would presumably have spent Christmas Eve watching the Eurotrash Christmas Special on Channel 4 - a guaranteed provider of semi-nudity, double-entendre and lavatory humour. Euromash's idea of the Christmas spirit would be perfectly summed up by a musical vihrator that plays "Oh Come All Ye Faithdown such an item for their seasonal gift guide, but they did include reports on the Catalonian tradition of adorning their nativity scenes with a small crouching man attending to a call of nature, a nude aerobics video and a French amateur porn mogul who turns up at the door carrying a camcorder and wearing a Santa negligée, I am thinking of seeing a therapist about the problem but I find I enjoy Eurotrash, in particular the candid air of contempt with which Antoine de Caunes delivers this fishnet stocking crammed with salacious tat.

Gary and Tony would not have spent Christmas Eve watching any of the programmes on BBC 2, which offered a rather more elevated notion of grown-up fun. The best of these was "Toy Stories", a Modern Times about the way in which no adult can ever be said to have left off childish things, our toys having made us what we are. Stephen Walker slightly blurred the focus of his central theme by including footage of children talking about their Tamagotchis (charming, but slightly off the point) and some montages of children playing that reminded you of the calculated sentiment of health-insurance



Behave yourself, it's Christmas: the jokes were perkier than in recent episodes, but still dependent on the staples of feminine exasperation and male oafishness

some of the tales told here, a sharp sense uncalloused souls that I am contemplating in no particular order, you would end up people in Victorian dress, all of them ohligof the wayward mental perspectives of childhood, when the loss of a toy can leave a lifetime scar of bereavement.

mentarily undone by recalling how her fastidious father had thrown a beloved sailor doll on to the fire, because she had been sick over it: 50 years on, she still had the miniature substitute which she had saved her pennies to buy. Another woman recalled the aching grief of seeing her own dolls laid out at the school fête, for others to buy. I had recently conducted a cull on my own children's growing herd of soft toys but this programme made me feel so unadverts. But there was a truer pathos to nerved by what I might have done to as yet base and then assembled the resulting hits the camera would cut away to a group of returns in 'The Eye' on Monday 5 January.

resurrecting them from the attic limbo in which they languish.

Arena's programme "The Banana" One middle-aged woman was mo- later that night was much less enchanting - a notionally sprightly miscellany of banana facts and folklore that became increasingly irritating the longer it continued. Arena has made a speciality of these anthology programmes - in which the cultural and social implications of a single object are explored - but they only work if there is some sense of covert argument at play. Here there was no editorial principle that I could discern beyond an open door: if you did a word search on "banana" in any sizeable data- a living laugh-track. Every now and then Thomas Sutcliffe's daily television review

with something very similar - Ian Hislop saying "I'm a banana", the Reverend Canaan bananas, banana republics. I usually love bananas, but I couldn't finish this one.

Almost equally ill-conceived was A Christmas Dickens (BBC2 passim) - not because the hessian-bearded Simon Callow wasn't up to the task of reading Dickpolice in different voices") but because the unwise decision had been made to employ

ed (contractually, I imagine) to adopt facial expressions of intense interest and Banana, Freddie Mercury with bananas on amusement. The most conspicuously dishis head, Auberon Waugh's now well-trod- tracting of these was a gentleman with den story about his father eating all the mutton-chop whiskers and shining eyes whose face was the very epitome of comic anticipation - he trembled to the hrim with scarcely contained hilarity, every now and then spilling over in a variety of Equity-minimum chuckles, titters and chortles. A more effective way of ensuring ens (there's no doubt that he can "do the that the audience would remain stony-faced I cannot conceive.

Strike up the bland: light music fails to deliver the Christmas message



Borrowed life: music better known as

posers of the Week this week contains a years," it reads, "light music has undergone a welcome renaissance." Well, there's cer- anything but welcome. tainly been a renaissance, in which Radio 3 has played its part: a few years ago, it broadcast an excellent series called Charge of the Light Brigade that showed that the broad category of "light music" includes things that are resourceful, witty and even touching. But, listening to the first three days of "British Light Music", you realise just how hland most of this stuff is.

Take Anthony Collins's Vanity Fair. played on Monday, and supposedly a portrait of Regency England. If you think the central characteristic of Regency England was a brisk, optimistic prissiness, then this little canter might have had something to say to you; historical insight aside, it was a hland, uninventive piece. And most of the other music heard followed the pattern. The all were those that borrowed it from else-

The hilling in Radio Times for Com- where - like the March from Trevor Duncan's Little Suite, better known as the baffling, even worrying sentence: "In recent theme tune for Dr Finlay's Casebook. So the idea of this sruff having a renaissance is

This probably wouldn't bother me if there didn't seem to be so much of the rubbish around. On Sunday, Radio 2 devoted a whole hour to the composer of The Typewriter (aka the theme to The News Quiz), in Sleigh Ride: The Leroy Anderson Story. "Story" was pitching it a Composers of the Week turned over to a hit strong. Anderson's CV didn't feature much in the way of incident (it is emblematic that he spent the war working for US Army Intelligence in Iceland), and David Jacobs was hard put to assemble a narrative of a life without landmarks. Still, that is in keeping with the music, which is pretty dull and unoriginal, doesn't it?) hasically Eric Coates with sound-effects ~ typewriter bells, sleigh bells, coconut shells. (Those were in The Syncopated Clock. As Jacobs pointed out, composers since Haydn had used clocks in their music, but only only pieces that seemed to have any life at Anderson had thought of making them syncopated. Which makes Haydn look a Christmas Audience (R2, Mon - though

CHRISTMAS RADIO



REVIEWED BY ROBERT HANKS

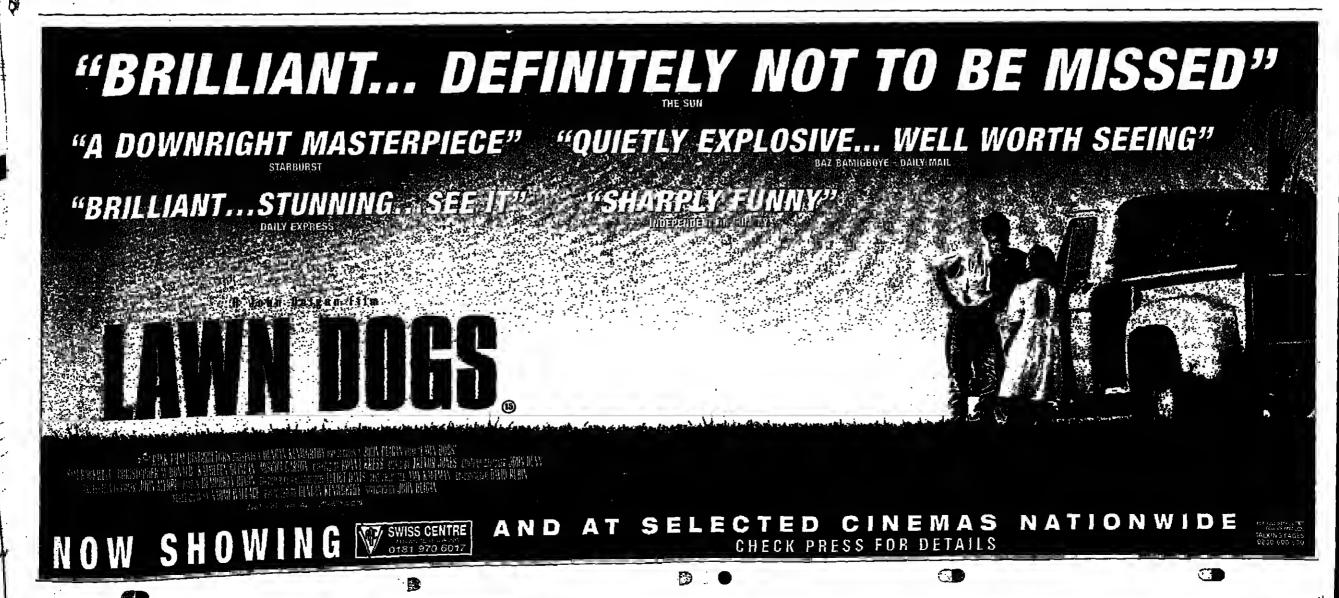
This all seems to be part of a conspiracy to soothe, along with the Easy Does It Christmas Special (R2, Sat - Jacobs again), Classic FM's nightly Smooth Classics at Seven, A Merry Maxmas (with Max Bygraves, R.2. Christmas Eve) and Des O'Connor... With

O'Connor at least has a degree of vim and that all this blandness comes creeping out restraining themselves from throttling their loved ones. Perhaps we should welcome it; hut it leaves me depressed. Music as a means of transcending circumstance seems to be getting thrown aside; this is music as a means of suppressing feeling, of achieving spiritual numhness.

mean bland, Radio 4 is broadcasting a short season of work by Piers Plowright, the BBC's most distinguished features producer, who retires on his 60th hirthday this Tuesday. In An Artist in Sound (Christmas Day), Plowright recalled a story of his father's about the General Strike, when he heard the sound of a revolutionary mob advancing inexorably towards him, which turned out to be a flock of sheep. The moral? That sound is ambiguous - open to seems rather in tune with the spirit of interpretation in a way that the visual is not.

The point was beautifully demonstratprofessionalism). It can't be a coincidence ed in two other programmes in the season: Mr Fletcher, the Poet (Christmas Day) of the woodwork at Christmas. It looks like and Mr B (Boxing Day). Both consisted a deliberate response to a time of year when essentially of a lone voice telling its story. people's thoughts turn towards ways of Jeff Fletcher was a Leicestershire huilder who wrote poetry in his spare time, winning the Commonwealth Poetry Prize in 1951; Mr B was James Bellamy, an elderly schoolmaster who taught Plowright's own son, and who professed a passionate, distinctly eldfashioned hlend of discipline and kindness.

A less subtle producer might have chal-Just to prove that soothing need not lenged their stories, poked at the self-pity and self-love that was an undertone in both; or might have tried to draw out the emotional aspects of the story with music: something in a minor key, say, to underline Mr B's grieving for a boy who had died. But in letting them speak for themselves, Plowright gave them an integrity, a wholeness as well as an honesty, that won respect. In their way, these programmes hinted at a kind of wisdom and generosity that, well,



Nicolette Larson

Nicolette Larson, singer and songwriter: born Helena, Montana 17 July 1952; married 1990 Russell Kunkel (one daughter); died Los Angeles

The transition from backing vocalist tu lead singer is not always an easy one, though Sheryl Crow has managed it receotly. while the American singer as a secretary. Nicolette Larson came to the fore in the Seventies. With "Lotta Love", a simple hut heartfelt Neil Young composition, she reached the American Top 10 in 1979 and was voted Best Female Vocalist by Performances magazine.

Before and after her major success. Larson also sang backing vocals on a multitude of Commander Cody - and they recordings made in Los Ange- let you do a song in the show, les by the likes of Christopher Cross, the Doobie Brothers, ing: that girl was good! Then Van Halen and Emmylou Harris. In the later part of the Eighties, she made a successful switch to the country music which had always been inherent in her singing style. She also acted and campaigned for President Clinton in 1996.

She was born in Helena, Montana, in 1952, into a large family (she was one of six children) which followed her US Treasury Department Executive father around the country. The Larsons moved every couple of years and the young Nicolette was exposed to every genre of music from soul to pop via country. She especially liked Hank Williams and her singing was undoubtedly influenced by Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn, but her peripatetic childhood and varied taste would later be reflected in albums containing Tamla Motown material alongside songs by Sam Cooke, Burt Bacharah and Jackson Browne.

Larson graduated from high school and majored in psy-

and a waitress and decided to the American dream. Always didn't work out. But they did. In a club, she met a lady who organised the Golden State Bluegrass Festival and hired her

"From there, everything snowballed." she would later recall. "Yuu sing a little with somebody backstage, then you sing background un somebody's demo, then somehody lets you sing on an album and pretty soon people are talking about you. Then you go on the road with somebody - Hoyt Axton or and pretty soon people are saythey offer you a record deal."

For Larson, It was as simple as that. By her own accord, she "was not a prolific songwriter". But she had an amazing, twangy, vulnerable and emotive voice. In 1978, Leony Warooker signed her to Warner Brothers and put her together with the Doobie Brothers producer Ted Templeman and Bill Payne of Little Feat fame. And she brought "Lotta Love", a Neil Young composition, to the party.

"I got that song off a tape I found lying on the floor of Neil's car," she said in interviews. "I popped it in the tape player and commented on what a great song it was, Neil said: You want it? It's yours." "With Templeman's smooth production and Jimmic Haskell's sophisticated string arrangement "Lotta Love" became an American Top 10 hit in 1979 and, alongside Boz Scaggs, ushcred in a new era of blue-eyed soul

alhum which sold half a million

chology and sociology at college. copies and was certified gold. At 21, she found herself work- Larson was more than the ing as a part-time secretary crown princess of California rock. She was equally at ease head for California io search of with Jesse Winchester's "Rhumba Girl", given a Little the practical girl, she bought a Feat funky flavouring by the return hus ticket in case things keyboardist Bill Payne and guitarist Paul Barrere.

A year later, she duetted with Michael McDonald (of Doobie Brothers fame) on "Let Me Go Love" and reached the Top 40, but In the Nick of Time and Radioland were less successful albums. She was seen as a poor alternative to Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris (she often sang with both) and couldn't quite follow up her major hit. In 1982, she worked with Andrew Gold on All Dressed Up & No Place To Go, but to no

Two years later, after touring with the musical Pump Boys and Dinettes in which she played the part of Rhetta Cupp, Larson signed to MCA Nashville and went back to her country roots, stressing at the time that "country music is almost what Southern California rock was - is really. The Eagles today would be a country band."

After initial resistance from a scene that doesn't like performers switching styles (Juice Newton being a classic example), Larson toured with Steve Earle and Poco, released two alburns (Say When and Rose of My Heart) and scored several Top 40 country hits ("That's How You Know When Love's Right", with Steve Wariner, de la crème of session players, was nominated for duet of the year by the Country Music Association in 1985).

But even at the height of her popularity in Nashville (the Academy of Country Music named her Best New Vocalist in 1984), the singer with the long distinctive black hair (Crystal Gavle and Eddie Brickell had Still, on Nicolette, her déhut nothing on her) remained a California resident and was very



Larson: blue-eyed soul LA-style

Photograph; Glenn A. Baker / Redferns

much part of California's crème appearing in concert with Jim-Willie Nelson. She moved into acting, guesting in the US sitcom Throb and acting opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny De Vito in Twins (1988). Somewhat typecast as a nightclub singer, her performance of "I'd Die For This Daoce" proved one of the saving graces of that box-office smash.

In 1990, Nicolette Larson married the drummer Russ Kunkel (the number one Los my Buffet, the Beach Boys and Angeles session drummer who worked on such classic recordings as Carole King's Tapestry). hum, She was on especially After the hirth of their daughtor Elsie May, she recorded Sleep Baby Sleep (for the Sony Wooder label in 1994), a collection of lullables and children's songs which included duets with Linda Ronstadt and Graham Nash.

Five years ago, Larson'a career completed a full circle when Neil Young called on her to provide the backing vocals on his excellent Harvest Moon alfine form on the ethereal "Dreaming Man" and on a live performance of "Natural Beauty", echoing Young's chorus of "a natural beauty should he preserved like a monument to

-- Pierre Perrone

Denise Levertov



Denise Levertov, poet born liford, Essex 24 October 1923: Fannie Hurst Professor (Poet-in-Residence), Brandeis University t9at-83; Professor of English, Stanford University 1982-94; married 1947 Mitchell Goodman (died 1997; one son: marriage dissolved (974); died Seattle, Washington 20 December 1997.

What characterises Denise Leverior's poetry is an untiring ere-

a wide range, defying the notion that poets can be categorised as "nature poet" or "war poet". There is a consistent clarity in her voice and a sparseness in her language. She was a myslical poet who wrote assertively of the spiritual, and a political poet who continued to find images to make us think.

Leverior was born in liford, in 1923, and emigrated to the United States in 1948, the year after she married the American writer Mitchell Goodman, Herfirst collection of poetry, The Double Image, was published in 1946. Her 22nd collection. Sunds of the Well, will be published by Bloodaxe in February.

a Russian Jew who settled in England after the First World War and became un Anglican ativity a treshness and sense of priest. During the Second

urgency. She wrote lyrical, cel- World War she worked as a civilebratory poems, and poems ian nurse in London. Her first intrinsic unity of the two aspects. The Vietnam poems are angry. that found hard hitting and ap-book was published in England of her vision, the spiritual and forcing the reader to confront propriate imagery for the hor- and when she moved to Amer- the political, that gave her po- the particularity of atrocity. ors of our times. Her work has ica she was published in Kenerry its individual voice. An ac-She is weeping for her lost right arm. neth Rexroth's 1949 anthology The New British Poets, Rexroth wrote later that "she, more than anyone, led the redirection of American poetry . . . to the mainstream of world literature."

She was associated with the

Black Mountain school, and

during the next three decades she came to be seen as America's foremost contemporary woman poet. In the course of her career she held the position. of poetry editur of the Nation in 1961, and teaching posts at Vassar College, Tufts University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, before becoming Professor of English She grew up in Essex and at Stanford in 1982. She was a was educated at home by her - recipient of the Shelley Award Welsh mother and by her father. for Poetry and elected in the American Academy in 1980. In addition to her many collections she published books of essays and autobiographical pieces.

It was her conviction in the Her language is uocluttered. tive campaigner for civil rights and against the Vietnam war. she described the evolution of her own political commitment in the introduction to her 1971 collection To Stav Alive, seeing

herself as one of those who have come bit by bit to the knowledge that opposition to war, whose foul air we have breathed so long that by now we are almost choked forever by it, cannot be sep-arated from opposition to the whole system of insone greed, of racism and mperialism, of which war is only the itable expression.

This conviction remained at the hasis of her philosophy and she responded in her work to events in Chile and El Salvador as well as to the threat of nuclear war. She used a personal voice to reflect upon the public world, insisting upon poetry's role in protest and

There is an unselfconscious directness in her political poetry.

She cannot write the alphabet any

on the kindergarten blackboard. it at the same time

source of hope:

members one of another

Denise Levertov was an inspiration. Those to whom she

taught creative writing, and

to be serious and committed,

to take on the large issues

without losing the personal

perspective. She moved effort-

lessly between spiritual tuss-

les, reflections upon ageing,

relationships, places, and world

peace, always with the same

precision, the same steady

SUSPENDED

I had grasped God's garment in the

The "everlasting arms" my sister toved to remember must have upheld my leaden weight

tor though I claw at empty air and

--- Cynthia Fuller

but my hand slipped

feel nothing, no embrace,

she has been a particular inspiration to the generations of She showed that it is possible

She is weeping for her lost right arm. She cannot hold her baby and caress ever again. Levertov's focus was always

sharp. She showed how poetry can work to express horror without making it safe, how poetry can be both profound and lucid. A concern with exploitation and injustice runs through all her collections. What prevented her sense of the world becoming overwhelmingly negative was the articulation of a moral and spiitual faith. Her sense of our responsibility for war and suffering becomes a

all of us are our brother's keepers, responsible, culpable and -

Admiral Jacques Guillon

born Cosne-sur-Loire (Nièvre), France 27 December 1910; died Mériot (Aube), France 8 December

It was comparatively rare for French naval personnel to join General de Gaulle's Free 5.000 men of the French navy served under his leadership. for this since a sador was of most value if his ship and its crew had remained with him. But, most important of all, the French navy was opposed to prisoners. Britain because of Operation

in Algeria, on 3 July 1940, the British navy had attacked about by the British government's fear that the French fleet would be used by the Germans. This event still arouses resentment in certain Freoch memories.

It was remarkable that out of this unhappy episode emerged two young Frenchmen who were to distinguish themselves in the Allied cause. One was Honoré d'Etienne d'Orves, a naval lieutenant who was officier d'ordonnance to Admiral Godfroy, the commander of the French force. He came to London in September 1940, returned to France and became a resistance organiser. He was betrayed and shot by the Germans on 29 August 1941, reportedly the first resistance fighter to be executed. The other was Jacques Guillon.

Guillon, who was a product of the École Navale, was serving on the torpedo boat Tornade as a lieutenant when the British attacked at Mers-el-Kehir. He was lucky because the ship. managed to get away and was not pursued by the British. Guillon remained in the Mediterranean until November 1942. Then, with the Allied expedition to North Africa and the German invasion of unoccupied those who heard her read her France, the French authorities work, will never forget. Perhaps gave orders that the fleet in Toulon should be scuttled.

Fearful that his own ship women poets who follow her. would be captured by the Germans or the Italians, Guillon sabotaged it and took refuge on shore. There, disguised as a priest, he made his way on foot to join the Free French forces of General Lectere in the desert. After his triumphal expedition from Chad, Leclerc was moving into Tunisia and Tripolitania, fighting with British and New Zealand forces. Guillon took part in the capture of Tunis (which fell on 8 May 1943) and

Bizerta. Guillon was given the rank of captain and attached to the tanks and motorised unit of Leclerc's forces. Made up of many nationalities, this was the famous second armoured division, the Deuxième Division Blindée (known as the Deuxième DB). After their victories

Jacques Guillon, naval officer: in Africa, they were transferred to Yorkshire for special training in preparation for their landing in France. General Eisenhower had told them that they would not be amongst the first to land but he had promised that it would be French troops that would liberate Paris.

Leclerc and his troops land-French movement in London. ed at Utah Beach, in Nor-By the end of 1941, fewer than mandy, on 1 August 1944. Guillon, leading his tank unit, moved eastwards towards Paris There were obvious reasons and south of the Seine. He took part in the liberation of Neuilly-sur-Seine, which had heen strongly defended by the Germans, and took many

Then the Leclerc armoured division moved eastwards to-At Mers-el-Kéhir, by Oran, wards the Vosges, towards Strasbourg and Germany. The French flag was raised over French warships. Some 1,300 Hitler's eagle eyric at Bercht-Frenchmen were killed in this esgaden on 5 May 1945 and action, which had been brought some French troops were able to wander amongst the Führer's library and gramophone-record collection.

For some of them it was a remarkable journey that they had made from the heart of tropical Africa. For Guillon. although he had not been present from the beginning, it was also an achievement which he described in his book From Carthage to Berchtesgaden, writteo in his retirement (and published in Paris in 1978). He had served with remarkable officers, such as Leclerc himself, or the bold and adventurous Massu; he had been in training in Yorkshire with another naval officer, Philippe de Gaulle, and Moneorge, also known as Jean Gabin.

After the war he returned to the navy. From 1950, he served in Indo-China, where, as captain, he was in charge of a naval unit controlling the Bay of Saigon. This was of particular importance in terms of the war since the Viet-Minh were strong in the Mekong estuary. In more general terms it was important as the population in Saigon-Choloo rose to some two million in 1954. (it had been 300,000 in 1939) and the bay became the centre of great activity which had to he supervised by the French authorities. Guillon also had the particularly delicate task of evacuating the representatives of General Chiang Kai-chek from the interior of Indochina and of arranging their discreet evacuation to

Back in France he was promoted, and as Rear-Admiral was in charge of a naval force in Lorient, which was ready for emergencies. In 1965, he was put in charge of the sites in the Pacific which the French government planned to use for nuclear experiments.

From 1969 to 1972, he directed the centre for the training of high-ranking staff officers in all services. With this condusion to his career. Jacques Guillon had served in all aspects of hard activity, with the unusual addition of having been a distinguished fighting soldier.

--- Douglas Johnson

BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

BADO: James Antone (Tony), died penechtlik at home on 22 December, aged (st) gen. Dearly lived hashand of Judy, adored and lowing lather of Charles and Amanda, and a much-loved grandfather.

uncoments for Gazette BIRTHS. Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & OEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriami should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Indepen-dent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0111-193 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fased to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcents (notices, functions, Forthcom ments (notices, functions, recentaring marriages). Murriages in must be submitted in writing for faxed and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The QaiTUARIES e-mail address

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household County Mount

at Reguleri mount; the Occer's Life : found at Horse Guards. Ham, 1-1 Bar-telon Welsh Guard mount the Queen's frant, at Buckingham Palace. If Ston. road provided by the Coldensian Counts TOMORROW: The First Lhold Counts Mounte? Regiment mounts the Queen's Neel Johnson, actor, \$1; Mr Nigel Lit. Guard at Horse Guards, from Kennedy, violinist, 41; Mrs Frances

Birthdays

Air Hugh Arbuthnott, former amassador to Denmark, 61; Mrs Anne Armstrong, fornier US ambassador to Britain, 'tt Viscount Astor, former government minister, 46: Mr opher Benjamin, actor, 63; Sir Gordon Brunon, company chair-man, 76; M Gerard Depardieu, ac-tor, 49; Sir Thomas Devitt, former rugby player and shipbroker, 95; Lord Grittuhs of Florestlach, vicechairman, Goldman Sachs (Europe), in: Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodekiuson, norme: Air Secretary, 80; Mr Mick Jones, rock musician, io: Miss Pet Moss, former rally driter, 65, Professor Donald Northcole. plant birchemist, 7n: Mr Mike Pen-der, rock singer, 55: Sir William Purves, chairman, Midtand Bank, 6s; Mr Peter Quaife, rock musician, 54: Professor Brinley Rees, classical choler, 78: Sit Norman Reid, former Director, Tate Gallery, 82; Dr Edward Salthouse, Master, University College. Durham, 62: Lord Sterling of Plaiston, chairman, P & O. 65; Miss Linet Street-Porter, broudcaster and writer, 51: Miss Pully Toyabee, jour-nalist and broadcaster, 51: The Right Rev Michael Turnbull, Oishop of

TOMORROW: Alr Intikhah Alam. former Palastan cricketer, 59; Mr Ter-ry Burcher, footballer, 59; Mr Donald Cart, cricketer, 71; Sir Ellis Clarke, former president, Trinidad and Tobago, 80: Major Madeleine Craege, secretary, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 52: Mr Thomas Gould VC, 85; Mr May Hastines Editor-in-chief, the Lundon Engine Standard, 32: Ford Hattersley, former government minister, 65; Mr Noel Johnson, actor, 81; Mr Nigel

Morrett, former leader, ILEA, 6tt Si Patrick O'Connor, former Lord Jus-TODAY: Mrs frene Adams MP, 50: tice of Appeal, 83; Mrs Bridget Pren tice MP, 45; Mr Simon Raven, autho and playwright, 70; Mrs Joan Rud-dock MP, 54; Dame Maggie Smith actress, 63; the Right Rev William Westwood, former Bishop of Peter-borough, 72; the Hon Geoffrey Wil-

Anniversaries

son, former chairman. Delta plc, 68.

TODAY: Births: Louis Pasteur chemist and bacteriologist, 1822; Marlene Dietrich (Maria Magdalena Dietrich), actress, 1901. Deaths Charles Lamb, author and essayis 1834: Howard Hoagland (Hoagy) Carmichael, composer, singer and pi-anist, 1981. On this day: J.M. Barrie's play Peter Pan was first performed, 1904. Today is the Feast Day of St Fabiola, St John the Evangelist. St Nicarete and Saints Theodore and Theophanes Graptoi. TOMORROW: Births: Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, astronomer, 1882 Deaths: 51 Francis de Saley. 1622: Rob Roy (Robert Macgregor), clan chief, 1734; Maurice Joseph Rayel, composer, 1937; Sam Peckinpah film director, 1984. On this day: the centre portion of the Tay Bridge in Scotland collapsed, 1879, Tomorro is the Feast Day of St Antony of Lerins, the Holy Innocents (Childermas and St Theodore the Sanctified.

Lectures TODAY

Victoria and Albert Museum: Pa tricia Baker, "Indian Temple Art".

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, Portraying the World as It Isn't.

MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

There is no edification in this massacre of innocence

The light of Christmas casts a shadow. One child was born but, as a direct consequence, many others were killed by Herod. Rawan Williams, Bishop of Mormouth, is impatient however with attempts to see

significance in the suffering.

"O Almighty God, who . . . madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths . . . "I can't quite remember when I first realised that the Book of Common Prayer which I love dearly - was capable of coming out with sonorous blasphemy: hut I don't know what else you could call its Collect for today's commemoration of the Huly Innocents, the children massacred by King Herod in his attempt to eliminate the child Jesus.

God is not exactly being accused of engineering the deaths of these infants. moral problems. But God is being represented as guilty of one of the most nauseating sins of our and other cultures: the sacrifice or suffering of children being colonised by some adult system of meaning and giving it a significance which makes it pos- even as instructor. Better not to be born ploiting the pre-teen market, making bandage."

sible for us to contemplate it without

It's the same phenumenon in Central Africa, in the armies of Laurent Kabila, or in the revolutionary guards of Iran and Iraq: children are conscripted into a bloody adult conflict, their pain somehow transfigured by an adult cause. Any offence against the integrity of the child is a kind of murder, subjugating the child to an alien principle or agenda: the abuser destroys children to glorify a particular kind of adult

How does this basically differ from God turning a sickening massacre to edifying religious ends? The Book of Commnn Prayer rapidly escapes to the remute territory of metaphor, talking broadly about how we must mortify our vices and recover uur innocence. This only makes things worse; the butchered our priorities is to destroy that otherchild ends up as nothing more than a ness and so destroy something of our symbol for something else, for my

A Christian at prayer ought to know hetter. One of the enormous and disturbing originalities of Jesus in the gospels is his insistent pointing to the child not as metaphor but as reality --

tle ones". You want to know what his like to live in the Kingdom of God? Look at a child. Jesus is not sentimentalising childhood innocence. He is rather saying that the child is in the most serious and irreducible way an Other to an adult. The child doesn't share an agenda, perhaps doesn't even share a language, with adults; the child is simply there, a human reality that is not involved in adult rivalries and negotiations.

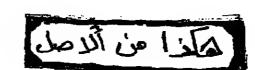
What matters about the child is her or his presence and difference, all at once. The child should strip us of the assumption that our agenda is the natural, the obvious, the authoritative one. Only when this happens, says Jesus, do we get any inkling of what the Kingdom of God might mean. To bring the child into our framework and own possibilities of new life.

And while it may be easy to shake our heads over Kabila or the Ayatollahs, it is less easy to talk of the routine ways in which we pressgang children into adult fantasies and projects hare in Britain - whether by cx-

than to offend against "one of these lit- sure that children are drawn in to the consumerist addiction as soon as possible, or by tolerating the social conditions that force the child into struggle and in some violent estate, or by the casual and knowing sexualising of the image of young girls by the beauty and fashion industry or just by the barbarous functionalism uf so much of our educational rhetoric.

Jesus seems to say that the child must be left to be just that: an Other, whose importance for us adults is that they're not like us. And one consequence of this is that we have to resist the temptation to impose meanings on the sufferings of children; to let outselves be nakedly shocked precisely because the pain that children experience doesn't let itself be used and processed into any of our systems.

No glorifying, then. I can't say the Book of Common Prayer Collect for today and I don't think anyone should. Perhaps confronted with the pain of the child is our only response should be to look -- to shut up and look. And resist the temptation to try to make it tidy, Remember Dennis Potter's haunting remark, "Religion is the wound, not the



One more teenager makes no difference to the drugs debate



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So a cabinet minister's son has supplied cannabis to an undercover reporter. Big deal. Some will say that this means the minister should resign because he says one thing about drugs and a member of his family does another. This is nonsense. Others will say this affair shows that the drugs law is an ass and "proves" the case for legalisation. That is nonsense, 100.

Ministers, like corporate bosses, newspaper editors, and others in authority. should resign when they have made a major error, or if they have been dishonest. But reversing the old husiness about the sins of the fathers being visited on the sons is a harmy idea. Most parents of teenage children find it hard controlling them think of Anne Atkins's daughter who ran away recently. But the children of politicians have a particularly hard time of it. Not only do their parents work punishingly long weeks, but they also have to put up with the constant needling and occasional sucking-up that goes with parental fame.

It is unsurprising, therefore, that there has been a long list of politicians' children who have got into trouble with drink or drugs. The wonder is that any of them grow up happy and successful at all. In the case being talked about now the boy has done nothing very heinous.

He was set up and fell - plop! - straight into the trap. There is no suggestion that he had been roaming around the capital

luring innocent youngsters into a life of vice. As it happens, he is a decent, amusing young man who comes from a levelheaded, very normal family. Like a vast number of people his age his has fooled around with soft drugs. Well, knock us down with the proverbial feather.

It changes nothing about our state of knowledge of the drugs question. He is surely allowed to try to cope with the con-sequences without it turning into a major national news story? For that reason, and because it is against the law to identify under-18s in court proceedings, we have taken a very low-key approach, to the story. So have the broadcasters. Other papers, though, have used every hint, nudge and wink known to journalism to reveal the minister concerned, tectering, at least, on the edge of hreaking the law in their anxiety to inform their readers.

Other than natural human curiosity the excuse must be that the son's behaviour is a matter of public interest, presumably because it would cause us to reassess his father's arguments. But the minister has not been hypocritical. He has not been "caught out". His son has done something he disapproves of - taking and dealing in drugs. He still disapproves of it.

Perhaps he feels more forcibly than before the truth that drugs are paken all over the place. But he knew that anyway. Indeed, overall, this story tells us nothing es-

sential about the dehate on the legalisanon of drugs. For us, that is a subject close to home. Our sister paper has campaigned hard and honourably for the legalisation of cunnahis. We remain, while infrigued, wholly unconvinced.

There is an intellectual case for the decriminalisation of all drugs, hard or soft, throughout the world, in order to destroy the profits which nourish international crime. That would be a huge step, but it might choke off one of the world's biggest. most unpleasant and fast-growing trades. Some people would be lured into hard drug use by its new legality; but one would have to set beside their plight the fall in crime and violence that might result. It is a fascinating "balance of interests" debate, which has attracted libertarians of left and right, and has fuelled many arguments among everyone from the police to students. But it is academic: it would require decisive leadership by many countries which currently take the opposite view, so it has no prospect whatever of happening in the foreseeable furure.

That leaves the lesser question of whether or not cannahis itself should be legalised. (It is worth noting, in passing, that if it was, the minister's son, being aged under 17, would still have been liable to prosecution.) We are not morally shocked by cannahis use. Whisky has probably caused more misery by far... though more pleasure, too. But there is a lot of force in the Government's argument that legalisation would simply increase consumption without cutting crime, since the hig dealers and gangs would move onto the next swathe of illegal drugs.

In the end it would not, we believe. cut crime or make the streets safer, though it would please many users. Nor would decriminalisation stop dare-hungry youths experimenting with dope: hey experiment with eigarettes and spirits all the time.

It would, by contrast, tend to make drug use more socially acceptable, particularly as people search for alternatives to cigarettes and alcohol, knowing more and more about the drawbacks of both. Heroin and cocaine are already widely used by young wealthy professionals. Many people believe we are on the threshold of a new era of highly sophisticated "smart" drugs. Cannahis, the ultimate dopey drug, is going to become less of an issue, as campaigns start for the legalisation of ecstasy and other new drugs.

So the question is, should the law continue to provide a barrier, however rickety, against drug use, or should we give up, acknowledging that drugs are too popular for politicinns and the police to continue to meddle with?

No one can seriously say that the drug laws work. But legalising one drug would have little effect on the law and order questions; and legalising all of them in one country is too big a risk. Cannabis use doesn't involve high penalties, but should, medical exceptions aside, he discouraged. That judgement, not an easy one, is what matters. The hehaviour of yet another teenager who wants to get under dad's skin is good gossip but otherwise entirely irrelevant

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pain for Asia

Sir: The International Monetary Fund is uncharacteristically. humble in admitting it underestimated the severity of the East Asian financial crisis ("Chaos in Far Easi", 22 December). Even its sternest critics would allow some leeway on the hazardous nature of predicting the future; however there is no excuse for not learning the lessons of the

In East Asia the IMF is imposing extreme deflationary measures, in part to secure payments to foreign creditors. The same approach characterised its intervention in Latin America during the debt crisis of the 1980s. Today unemployment and poverty levels are higher in the region than they were 15 years ago. Hardly a rescue, hardly a blueprint for success.

Your report quotes the IMF's chief economist as saying that "some people are going to feel pain of this adjustment". The crucial question is bow much

. ... :

.

The degree of austerity being prescribed by the IMF is unjustified by underlying economic conditions. These are not Latin American basket cases of fi-

The IMF has created a "riskfree" environment for foreign investors. No pain for them. By contrast, ordinary people will suffer the pain of mass unemployment and declining public services. In Indonesia, a country with 20 million people below the poverty line, the IMF is imposing an extreme austerity package in the midst of drought

brought to account for its actions. It is also time that those poor people who will bear the pain are given the same hearing as those oo Wall Street. KEVIN WATKINS Senior Policy Adviser Oxfam Oxford

Sir: If there is any meaning to Christmas at all, then your leader (24 December) need not apologise for visiting Seoul and Tokyo rather than Bethlehem. In the globalized economy they are also part of the world "family" and we neglect their current difficulties at our, and their.

Korea and Japan have few natural resources. Both have made the only move open to them to develop world-class economies, which is to live off their wits. They are the most highly educated nations in the world, which is why in the end they will pull through this crisis. The people themselves are the

natural resource. As a densely populated island ourselves, we have much to learn from them, and they from us. More even than your editorial indicates. Sadly, naive interpretations of the secrets of the Tiger economies have concealed the real lessons, which come not from superficial clichés (leftwing or right-wing) but from sus-

pain and who feels it.

nancial profligacy. As for who bears the pain.

its radar reflectivity and the dilemma upon which this impales Stealth is more than the reduction of radar echoing area; it is the virtual elimination of this. primarily by the application of the theorems of James Clark Maxwell. All warplane manuand rising rural poverty. facturers can apply it; not easily, but they can. It is time the IMF was

> only marginally less radar-detectable than a Tornado. It could he shot down by a Stealth fighter without ever knowing one was nearby. Dare we trust America Stockport, Greater Manchester

Perils of Eurofighter ever the answer, other nations Sir: The financial extravagance can huild Stealth aircraft. of Eurofighter matters less than To be viable. Eurofighter re-

quires anti-Stealth radar. This is feasible but technically formidable. Few could develop it. Outside America, we lead those few. We can recover the effectiveness of this vital warplane, that is too expensive to replace. Only, in so doing, we would vinate a key US military advantage, with a deeply imfriendly act that must terminate the special relationship.

Eurofighter's radar-visibility Eurofighter doesn't, so is forces us to compromise either our defence or our political pos-NOEL FALCONER

Troon, Comwall

this fundamentally? And, what- Sir: Although the Eurofighter a long-term future. was first developed during the Cold War, as more nations develop their military capability such an aircraft doday is as essential as ever, as highlighted in

Eurofighter wows the crowds at Famborough air show -- but could its lack of Stealth technology mean the end of the special relationship with the United States?

Bosnia and the Gulf. The issue of jobs is very important. However, it is not the case that the UK.has agreed to produce the Euro fighter aircraft solely to keep 14,100 jobs. Technology used on the Eurolighter can be transferred to future military and contemercial aviation projects, such as the Future Large Aircraft programme and the next-generation Airbus. By carrying forward, this technology the UK can provide thousands of high-quality jobs with

If the UK had ordered the

would be lost, and with them the technology which could he passed on to future generations. This would signal the end to the UK's military and commercial aircraft industry, and its position in the world market. Rather than investing in "flatpack" factories from the Far East, factories that can be closed down as soon as there is a draught felt in the market, surely it is better to invest in hi-tech industries which provide long-term johs. Why squander this opportunity to invest in research and development when we hear so many observers claiming that

American F-22 these UK jobs

this is an area which the UK has traditionally neglected? LINDSAY HOYLE MP (Chorley, Lab) House of Commons

Sir: The Secretary of State for Defence is to be congratulated on his hudgeting. His saving on four-and-a-half years' upkeep costs on the Britannia has freed.

London SWI

us to huy 232 new Eurofighter jets instead of a mere 231. This will make all the difference to the defence of the nation's freedoms and traditions. Those traditions that are allowed to re-HAMISH ALLAN

tained cultural and social dia-

At this time of deep trouble, the UK has an opportunity to further rectify its relative neglect of this region compared with the USA. Paradoxically, now is the time to increase the UK involvement. Friends in need are friends indeed. Professor DENIS NOBLE

Santa's helpers

Sir; DJR Powell's letter (24 December) about the existence of Santa Claus has that spacious quasi-scientific quality of argument that one might expect from a person whose address is given as the "Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston".

Santa Claus does not need to bring presents to all the good Christian children. The responsibility is shared with the three Wise Men among others. depending on which Christian tradition the children belong to. actual distribution is not crammed into 31 hours but is

spread over a period between Turkey's record December and 6 January.

cept a nuclear scientist knows. cember; spent less time reading Santa and his co-workers are capable of manipulating time. A former member of CND. am saddened to note that those active in the manufacture and propagation of nucleur weapons are still so detached from reality. JOHN COSGROVE

In any case, as everyone ex-

Sir: Is Mr Powell a very sad man with no magic in his life or is he. perhaps, jealous of Santa's technology, which is clearly superior to anything dreamed up by those husy people at the Atomie Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston? DAVID STANSFIELD

Bulgarians, the Cretans, the London E3 Post letters to Letters to the Editor

and include a daytime telephone number. Fix 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.juk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a pental address. Letters may be edited for length and claring

man rights. Kurds

For the past 200 years.

Turkey has achieved the worst

Cypriots, the Greeks, the Kurds, the Macedonians, the Sir: If Stephen Cox (letter, 3) De-Maronite Lebanese, the Mon-

the meady-mouthed lutterances of Serbs, the Yemenis. (If I have President Clinton and Mr Blair omitted any group, I apologise.) and more time reading history. And, during these same 200 years. Turkey has always promised to behave. Whenever he would know that the European Union has, Indeed, made the Western countries have crita list of "requirements" for Turkey's adherence before it icised Turkey, Turkey has agreed to mend its ways. Then, Turkey would be admitted to the civilised nations of Europe. They has continued to misbehave. ANDREW KEVORKIAN were the promises that Turkey made, two years ago, in order to London WI be admitted to the #2U's Customs Union: Cyprus, de moeracy, hu-

Southern discomfort

tenegrins, the Romanians, the

Sir. As a Northern git I cannot let the gay community hijack the human rights record in the term "Southern poofs" as used in the Virgin video-game advert world. Turkey has massicred or otherwise mistreated the Al-("Computer game firms accused of inciting attacks on banians, the Artmenians, the gays7. 24 December).

As everyone oop North knows, the term refers to anyone from the soft South, regardless of their sexual inclinations; it is absolutely not homophobic and anyone who thinks so is being just a little too

delicate (or assisting in the advertising campaign). If the advertising company did go wrong it was to use "Southern poofs' instead of the more widely used "poncey Southerners", which shows that their grasp of regional English is as weak as their grasp on reality. Where The Independent went wrong was to give space to such a non-story - hut then tlike the advertising agency| The Independent is probalily full of poncey Southerners, a situation not offset by the presence of its strapping Jock editor. Ey up, 'ave I just stepped on someh'dy's sensibilities? DEREK MAGRATH Batley, West Yorkshire

Sir: I can understand why some might be upset by the use of the expression "Southern poofs" in an advertising campaign. In the eyes of many of us, however, that part of the term which refers insultingly to sexual orientation is not the more offensive of the two words. TOM VALENTINE Darfield, South Yorkshire



Photograph: PA

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, ITREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL. http:///incompression.co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

A year of windfalls, downfalls, mergers, break-ups, rising rates and white-knuckle rides on the markets



The year in question: (clockwise from top left) Ann Iverson; Carol Galley; Andrew Regan; the president of Yamaichi; Sir Peter Davis; and Nicola Horlick

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

1) What is the grand total for the emergency international loans put together for the troubled South-east Asia region in 1997? (a) \$50bn; (h) \$100bn; (e) \$200bo?

2) Which of the G7 leading iodustrial nations has the lowest unemployment rate? Which has the lowest inflatioo rate?

3) Who has to write a letter of apology to whom whenever he misses his target by more than 1 per cent?

4) How many huilding societies converted to banks this year and what were their oames?

5) How many times have interest rates risen since Labour came to power?

61 Who publicly apologised after discovering thousands of his company's customers had died awaiting compensation for pension mis-selling?

7) Who is oicknamed "Stalin's Granoy" and frightens the life out of miscreant life insurers?

8) What is the name of the mammoth City regulator launched this year and who is in charge of it?

BIDS AND DEALS

9) Which company failed to pull off the UK's higgest ever takeover after being outbid three times in the US?

Christmas Quiz 1997

10) Which bookselling cotrepreneur lauoched an audacious £1hn offer for his former employer?

11) Who is Carol Galley, the Queeo of Goldrush City, working for oow and

12) Who was the former high school baskethall coach who defeated the UK's higgest ever takeover bid?

13) Which two sets of banking initials were condensed ioto one?

14) Which aerial merger did Europe and

the US threaten to go to war over?

15) Which famous drinks oame disappeared from the stock market after 111

16) Name another famous corporate came which was consigned to the dustbin after a fashionable demerger!

17) In a year when silly-sounding name changes became in vogue which companies were re-badged as Elementis, Arriva. Arcadia and Diageo?

18) Which two supermarket groups were considering a merger only to find their nuptials disrupted before they could even 28) Which industry regulator announced 36) Which football club's owners have forstart down the aisle?

ARRIVALS

19) Who swapped the high street for a top job at BT?

20) Which American woman was the surprise choice to run a very British conglomerate?

21) Which finance director switched from

pharmaceuticals to defence electronics?

22) Which senior retailer risked accusations of nepotism when he appointed his 29-yearold son as a director of Next?

23) Which other Lord promoted his young son to the board of his carpet empire?

DEPARTURES

24) Which mother-of five flew to Frankfurt in a vain attempt to save her bank job?

25) Who got the order of the hoot after failing to revive the fortunes of an ailing

26) Which investment banker lost his top job after a Greek trader's mispriced options cost the business £78m.

27) Which nuclear chief executive quit after being refused the chairman's job?

35) Name the Everton chairman whose Park Foods business had problems when its JD Spuddles potato snack flopped disastrously?

he would hang up next year and search mutated plans to build the second-biggest

for a new challenge. And where did he sports and leisure complex to the country after Wembley?

29) Which four times married American woman conceded deteat and left her fim-a-year job as chief executive of 37) Name the 31-year-old entrepreocur troubled Laura Ashley as her aggressive recovery plan ended in tatters."

30) After 38 years butting for Tesco, who retired from the supermarket giant to take up a top job in kricket?

31) Which combation television executive. dubbed "the bruis could be box", left BSkyB due to his deteriorating health?

sold to a French rival? 32) Name the \$00th African who made a 39) Who was filmed handing over confidog's breakiast of his perfood company and deotial documents to whom in a Bearesigned as the group headed towards consfield hotel car park?

40) Which book publisher discovered a 33) Who retired for the second time as chair-£100m error in its US accounts? man of a house building company?

BUSINESS IN SPORT securities house resigned in the wake of

a racketcering scandal? 34) Which property tyooon won the battle for Nottingham Forest football club?

42) Which US iovestment hank was fined £350,000 for trying to manipulate tional exuberance?? the FTSE100 Index?

> 43) Who paraded in central London with placards describing National Grid as "National

SCANDAL

who together with his fellow bidders, was

accused by a high court judge of "the clear-

est case of a gross, wilful and disgraceful

breach of confidence" after his audacious

38) Which blue-blooded investment bank

backed the Co-op bidder, was later forced to

apologise for its behaviour and ended up being

44) Scottish Amicable was the target of a threeway bid battle after its policyholders ditched proposals to demutualise from its own directors. Who won the bid battle?

45) What was the nickname of the Yasuo Hamanaka, the rogue trader who was revealed this year to have salted away \$1.5m in a Swiss bank account as he carried out unauthorised copper trades?

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

46) Who arrived in a new job with the words "Have a plan, execute it violently and do it £1bn break-up bid for the Co-op ended in today?"

> 47) Who said, on getting the top job at a wellknown high-street retail chain: "I know they say I'm a decrepit old fart from inside the company. But I'm not."

> 48) "Having stood alooe for so many weeks taking all the flak. I am delighted that the true story surrounding the CWS is beginning to emerge.... The advice Galileo paid so many millions for ... was inept." Who made this claim as his bid disintegrated amid a flurry of writs?

41) The entire board of which Japanese 49) "It clearly would be unrealistic to look for a continuation of stock market gains of anything like the magnitude of those recorded in the past couple of years." Who said this nearly a year after warning the markets of "irra-

> 50) "This unexpected situation on our 100th anniversary is heartbreaking ... As a representative of the company, I am deeply sorry." Who wept as he said this?

week lapan's founh langest stockbroker 50. Shohei Nozawa, president of Yamaichi. end Reserve Bank of New York. 49. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fednogsk walant, St. ecruin e of W. H. Smide.

46. Marjoric Scandino, chief cocentre of Pear-THE YELLOW COUR 44. Prudential. The other bidders were Abbey

47. Richard Handover on becoming clinif ex-

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nmuoN It ningnA .0t .nagañ 'restan'. Oi estugil qo-o J 39. Allan Green of the CWS gring sensitive 201dmpH ,8£ чадау магрин 7.5 20 דפנקו ראוויים

35. Paer Johnson. Scandino's husband. Alben. Seated a consorming led by Montonia and AMP the Australian insurer gainer with living Scholar and Phil Soor de--or other suinsqual brolud logiv. It? turned in 1991. Frank Eaton succeeds him. -sı bın 8801 in britin iştuori sıq 9H zinəm 33 Sir Lawrie Barran of Barran Develop-

23. Lord Horris of Peckharth, head of Cur- 32. Richard Clothier of Dalgery, the Felix and 12.1 P Morgan. 31. Sam Chishulm. 30. Lord MacLaurin.

nostay int. 95 Enq Londuoo uminuon 2000, the body responsible for tackling the April and has been put in charge of Action 28. Don Cruickshunk of Oftel who leaves in 27. Dr Robert Handey of Nuclear Electric. smodel soomish id du nin sassol 26. Martin Owen left Not Nest Markets ofter

25. Liam Strong from Scars. protest at being sacked. quancis of Deutsche Mongan Grenfell to 24. Nicola Horlick, who Jew to the head-วดเวลสุท ริบทุลวุษยน ๓ นทุ -wild nest blo way 8C airl barman culm Literary

Transfort to the bound. tical Universal Stores. He promoted his som ב דימן ווי אלא או בנומושושו אל pont אכם חווק 21. John Maya, who left Zeheca for GEC.

Tiostosa fo

20. Marjoric Scardino, madę chief executive sible 196n menyer were leukalı in September. -sod pusico softal section whose talks over a post Al ารอานาเ-ดองเก ก่รกำ าวปุ้น กดเป็บตุเก

demerger and Unimess and Grand Mersınıntınsdə O sılır eylin əsərinəsi ö əsəqilisini v nos 17. Humons & Casheld Colone Group: Burio. Bunon.

15. Guinness.

6. Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of 13, 5BC and UBS became United Bank of ขอปูง ของออกุก แพก รท โด ออนป rouce giant offer BT was forced to our the dactors \$30bn bid for MCL, the US long disgroup. He sturned the markets with an au-WorldCom, the US long distance phone

12. Bernard Ebbers, the chief executive of 19. Bill Cockburn. Asset Management,

France has an inflation rate of just I per cent. 9, BT, which failed to buy MCI after being 8 The Financial Services Anthoning chaired

7. Helen Liddell, economic secretory to the 14. The Beeing-McDonnell Boughts mergar.

7.25 per cent

5. Five times and they have gone from 6 to pontain pa goval gaule of scoland 3d w) zsrúdzbiM mangnimið bra (brað es, Bristol & West (bought by Bank of Ire-4. Six Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leices-

chinbs above 3.5 per cent. whenever inflation falls below 1.5 per cent or 11. Mentill Lynch after it took over Mercury England, to the Chancellor Gordon Brown III. Tun Waterstone, who bid for W.H. Smith. 3. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of outbid by World Com (twice) and GTE. 2 Jupan has on unemployment of 4 per cent. hy Howard Davies. 1. (b) just under \$100bn.

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Wishing you many happy returns for the new year



NIC CICUTTI

This being my last column before the new year, it seems only apposite to write about two things. One is a quick look at events that affected readers' pockets in 1997. The second is to make a few suggestions as to how 1998 can he made marginally more pros-

For savers, the year has been - let's be honest - a good one. Not only did high street banks and building societies raise rates on their accounts to levels not seen for three years or so but, with the notable exception of the Far East and so-called emerging markets, share prices also reached record highs.

This was in sharp contrast to predictions by gloom-and-doom merchants, who suggested 1997 would be the year in which "corrections" around the world would see a drop in share values of 10 per cent or more.

Anyone investing in UK tracker funds would have seen gains of up to 30 per cent in 1997, compounding similar growth the previous year. In the US, the Dow Jones

share index has recorded a similar uplift. All the same, it makes sense to be a tad more careful in 1998. Now is the time to consolidate, looking at sectors less likely to be

affected by an expected slowdown in the UK Indeed, the implications of events in Japan and their potential to spill over in the

West mean that the gloomsters' warnings may simply have been premature and no This means that - unless you are a very long-term investor, in for 10 years or more

now is definitely not the right time to invest in the Far East. It may actually be time As for UK and European equities, far

safer - if not as exciting - havens for your cash as the past 12 months have been, in our. first few issues next year, our experts will be pin-pointing interesting investment areas to look at in 1998.

A warning, however, don't even think

about investing money until you have paid off existing credit card debts. Unless you are a financial guru, nothing will beat annual "returns" of 20 per cent or more gained by settling your plastic debt.

Meanwhile, mortgage borrowers have faced a torrid time in the past 12 months. with a succession of rate rises which will be expressed for many in the annual mortgage reviews they face in the first few months of the year. For someone with a typical £60,000 loan, the increases seen in the past eight months have added about £70 a month in repayment costs.

Nor is it likely that mortgage interest rates will come down swiftly in 1998. The answer must be to take advantage of some of the lower fixed and discounted rates now available and look not just two but three or more years ahead. It is still possible to obtain a four-year fix at 6.5 per cent and discounts of between 2 and 2.5 per cent on the current 8.7 per cent variable rate are around.

a glance at two changes set in motion by New

Labour's decision to remove the right to reclaim advance corporation tax on pensions means that anyone in a money-purchase occupational scheme or with a personal pension will see a severe shortfall in the value of their retirement income.

This invisible tax means that, according in some calculations, someone paying in £100 a month into a pension for the past five years, with 20 years to go until retirement, will see a drop in the value of his or her retirement fund of up to 10 per cent. To maintain its value, gross contributions should increase by £17 a month. This is clearly one useful new year resolution to take up.

Another is the ISA. The bottom line is that, assuming the £50,000 ISA upper limit remains unchanged, it makes sense to PEP up to the limit between now and April 1999, when the new regime comes in - particu-

It wouldn't be right to leave 1997 without larly for higher-rate taxpayers. Allowing Tessas to run alongside the ISA for the rest of their five-year lives means you should be tucking away any spare cash into a Tessa right now - or at some stage in the next 15

months. Finally, a quick look at credit cards and instant access accounts. Competition is fierce and there are cards out there with rates as low as 10.9 per cent. Some of the better ones are from the Co-operative Bank, Save& Prosper/Fleming and Royal Bank of

Lastly: if you have money parked in a lawinterest bank account, my advice is to go shopping for a better deal - to Tesco, Sainsbury's or some of the direct account providers such as Standard Life Bank who now offer direct access account rates of 7 per cent gross or more.

That's it for now. To all our renders, a happy and prosperous new year. We hope to help you make it so.

RUNNING

THE D

7.3%

7:0%

7.1%

£50m says this is the manager to watch

While history shows it is uncommonly difficult as a professional investor to beat the market averages over time, it can he done. Every once in a while it is good to see a new and exciting talent arrive on the investment management scene who threatens to do what scores lier this year, Sir John gave him of other professionals have failed to do before - and show so Mr Manek, as delightful a clean pair of heels to his rivals through consistently superior stockpicking. This week investors have het £50m that they have found just such a new and rare talent.

The story behind the rise to prominence of Jayesh Manek, the man in question, would be hard to beat if it were served up as pulp fiction. He and his family arrived in England as refugees from Uganda in 1971. They started a small chain of pharmacies in west London and through hard work built it up into a prosperous business, which they still own. In his spare time Mr Manek started playing the stock market, beginning with a handful of privatisation issues before moving on to try his hand in other sectors of the market.

It was not long before he was hooked. Calm, thorough and thoughtful, he approached the subject as one suspects he does everything in life, reading all the books he could lay his hands on and gradually formulating a method for picking small growth stocks. His private portfolios did well - and then in 1994 he decided to enter a Fantasy Fund Manager competition run by a

national Sunday newspaper. As is his way, Manek took the game seriously, made a series of multiple entries, and won the competition by a mile, turning his notional starting stake of £10m into £500m within six months. The following year he repeated his victory when the competition was run a second time. In all he ended up winning nearly a quarter of a million pounds in prize money.

ಭಾರತಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಿಡಿ **೧೪೦೮೦**ಕ್ಕ

... 27

Of course that was only a game and one which required

taking an unnaturally large degree of risk to win, given the short time span. But then in 1995 Mr Manek was offered the chance by the legendary investor Sir John Templeton to look after some real money -£5m of his private funds. Earanother £5m to look after. And and charming a fellow as you could wish to meet, found himself a professional fund manager, running both his own and Sir John's portfolios from

public monitoring is no picnic either. You can be sure that plenty of his compelitors will be gleefully watching for any sign of his seeming to slip up. Add to that the fact that he is starting his fund in the mature phase of a long bull market, and the odds against success might seem rather high.

But Manek is unflustered; he is in the game for medium to long-term returns and argues convincingly that his style of stockpicking will continue to outperform the market even



JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

the offices above the family pharmacy, Dallas Chemists in Ruislip High Street.

Now he has gone the logical final step and started the Manek Growth Fund, a unit เกนรเ which tonows stockpicking methods he has boned over the years. When applications closed last week, he had attracted £50m of new money to add to the £14.5m of Templeton money which will be rolled into the new fund and in-

vested alongside it. It is a remarkable sum to raise for someone who has never worked in the City and whose training was a pharmacy, not finance. For the time being. Manek will continue to plot his investment strategy from above the shop in Ruislip High Street.

How well will he do? Well, having spent some hours with Mr Manck above the pharmacy this week, I certainly would not het against his building a formidable track record over time. Of course, running a unit trust with £65m in it is, after all, not as easy as running a couple of private portfolios - and doing so in the spotlight of daily

when the current bull ruo comes to an end. For the record, he says that both the New York and London markets (and especially the former) are well above their long-run historical trend line; he calcu fates that the Footsie index needs to fall back to around the 4,200 - 4,300 level to get back on trend, and Wall Street could go all the way from 8,000 to 5,000 on the same hasis.

But, like all the great stockpickers. Manek is not overly worried by the state of the market as a whole. He thinks most private investors spend far too much time fretting over the level of the market. What matters more is how well the few companies which you have picked are doing.

If the companies continue to deliver what they have promised, and the original decision to buy was right, over time the shares will continue to

outperform the market. Picking a good business, he insists, is the key to finding longterm winners - and the simpler the husiness, the more focused the management, the better be likes it.

Looking through the portfolio that Manek has been running for Sir John Templeton is interesting. It is highly concentrated, with the 10 largest holdings accounting for 90 per cent of the fund's value. The companies Manek favours are all relatively small growth companies, either turnaround situations (Anite, formerly Cray Electronics, is one) or pure growth stocks (such as JJB Sports, and the computer com-

pany Parity). Intriguingly, the list contains several of the stocks that Jim Slater has also been finding with his price-earnings/growth rate methods, although the two men's investment styles are different in other respects.

Like Slater, Manek is keen on retail and leisure stocks and also service companies in the computer field. One of his general themes is that there is plenty of mileage left in huying companies which are now benefiting from the application of technology.

Banks are a good example. books the Chemist another - th fatter, of course, from the business Manek himself knows best . He says the recent introduction of a distinct IT sector in the Stock Exchange classification system can only highlight the attraction of shares of this type.

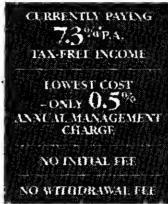
Of course, now that he has so much more money to play with, Manek knows that he is going to have to move up into the ranks of mid-sized and Footsic stocks to fill out his portfolio. Although his fund will remain weighted in favour of smaller growth stocks, be is confident that he can find shares which can deliver strong performances in the upper reaches of the market as well.

Manek hopes to have completed the investment of his pool of money in fairly short order. He is a genuinely impressive individual and refreshingly open about his methods and ambitions. Definitely one to watch over the coming months and years.

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How to work out whether a firm's figures add up

Shortly before Christmas, we looked at the p/e, which is the price-earnings ratio, one of the traditional tools used to assess a share's worth. The ratio is a simple concept and is calculated by dividing the company's share price by its earnings per share.

It is sometimes referred to as the "confidence ratio". As a general rule, the higher the p/e, the higher the market's regard for a company. Of course, only time will tell whether the market's judgement is correct. Certainly, investors should not use it in isolation when making their investment decisions.

For example, two companies may have identical p/es, based on present earnings, but one has far better prospects for growth and consequently an increase in share

The problem with the p/e is that is a measure which is essentially onedimensional. It is the relationship between the p/e and the expected growth of a company's shares which is a more meaningful measure.

A relatively new investment yardstick is the price earnings to the growth factor, which is known as the PEG. It relates the expensiveness of a share - that is the p/e - to the value to be received in the share price that is the earnings per share growth rate. Let us take a look at how the PEG works in practice.

Suppose a company's ple is the market average of around 15. If its earnings grow by 10 per cent a year, its PEG will be 1.5. If its earnings grow by 15 per cent, its PEG will be 1, while an earnings growth of 20 per cent will result in a PEG of

The general rule is, that providing the other fundamentals are satisfactory, the lower the PEG, the better the prospects for growth. Therefore, investors seeking growth shocks should ideally be looking for companies for a PEG of 1 or less.

Perhaps one of the most important investment yardsticks is the return on capital employed. This is simply a company's profit hefore interest and tax, divided by its net capital employed (also referred to as shareholder's funds) and then expressed as a percentage.

Therefore, a company with a profit before interest and tax of £1m with a capital employed in the husiness of £5m, has a return on capital employed of 20 per cent. The fairest approach is to use the average of the capital at the beginning and end of a financial year.

The return on capital employed may be used to compare the efficiency of similar companies as well as those in most different lines of husiness.

Naturally, the trend of this ratio is important, but its level at a particular moment in time is significant. If a company is not making a return on capital which is sufficient to comfortably cover the cost of its borrowing, then clearly it is heading for trouble.

The long-term financial health of a company normally requires returns on capital to be well into double figures. Indeed, returns of 20 per cent or more are not uncommon amongsi the market's most efficient companies.

Care should he used when looking at this yardstick for companies with significant assets in property which are revalued on a regular hasis. Upward valuations have the effect of reducing the return on capital employed. Therefore, conclusions from trends in the ratio should be viewed in the context of the revaluations.

An increasingly important yardstick for assessing the real worth of an investment is "cash flow". This is because when it comes to the daily operation of a company, cash flowing through a business can be more important than the conventional accounting measures of profitability. Cash flow is the most important measure of value created by a

The annual reports of all companies include a cash flow statement. Although the statement splits the cash flow into different categories, in essence it is designed 10 show how the profits are spent and where the money goes.

This is important as it is a check that the earnings of as company are backed up by hard cash. The "free" eash flow, which means after dividends and capital expenditure have been taken into account funds the company's future expansion.

When you look at a cash flow statement, there is a great deal of information to absorb. However, of all the data, the most critical is to ensure that the net cash inflow from operating activities is not materially different from the profit produced by trading operations.

When the cash flow from operating activities is less than the operating profit, creative accounting may have been employed. You should be cautious.



A good home for spare cash

If you have a few hundred pounds to spare, now is the time of year to consider cutting the size of your mortgage loan. But, as Paul Sinde reports, you must act quickly in order not to fall foul of the lenders' rules,

With many mortgage lenders charging interest of up to 8.7 per cent, while all but a few savings accounts pay little more than 6 per cent, cutting your debt can make more sense

In fact, the advantages of paying off your loan can be even greater. If you are a hasic-rate taxpayer, the effect of repaying a mortgage is to enhance the value of the capital you have paid off by 23 per cent, giving a gross return of 1tl.7 per cent. assuming a mortgage rate of 8.7 per cent. For higher-rate tax-

to a gross return of about 12.18 per cent on the same mortgage.

One way of repaying the loan is to use any spare cash to reduce the outstanding capital sum on your mortgage, by paying in a lump sum over and above your regular monthly repayments. The rate of interest you pay remains unchanged but, because that rate is being calculated on a smaller debt, your monthly repayments will fall. Alternatively, you can leave your monthly repayments unchanged and close your mortgage early instead.

Philip Cartwright, of London & Country, an independent hundred pounds can be worthwhile, "trail makes a difference," he says, "You're being charged something like 8 per cent on your mortgage, and where are you going to get that sort of return on ait investment account?"

Nationwide says a single overpayment of £400 made

payers, the uplift is equivalent now on a £70,000, 25-year repayment mortgage, opened five years ago at its current standard variable rate of 8.1 per cent, would produce a total saving of £1,449. Making a £400 overpayment every year from 1997 onwards on the same loan would produce a saving of

£9,617 over the full term. Many lenders will take overpayments of less than £1,000 into account only once a year. often at the end of December. Even then you will need to he very clear that you intend this as a capital repayment, and expect your future payments to be recalculated accordingly.

A spokesman at Natione says: "If you want to make even overpayments of just a few a small overpayment, this is a good time to do it. During the year, we would say the best thing to do is stick any spare money into your savings account to earn interest on it, and then pay it into the mortgage as a lump sum towards the end of the year."

Keen investors who are not

risk-averse may be better off devoting any spare cash to boosting their PEPs - returns on which could outstrip the mortgage rate - or topping up their pensions. But at London & Country, Mr Cartwright believes this will apply to only a minority of borrowers.

He says: "If you're somebody who would just witter that money away, probably one of the wisest things you could do is pay off part of the mortgage at the end of the year. From a discipline point of view. it's very sensible.

Overpayments need care, however, as each lender has its own rules. Most will accept overpayments of £1,000 or more at any time in the year, adjusting your interest calculation at the heginning of the following month or - if sooner - next time there is a rate change. Check your own lender's policy on overpayments before taking any action.

Even if you are making an overpayment of more than £1.000, it is important to tell your lender in writing that you want this treated as a capital repayment. Get their confirmation in writing 100. Mr Cartwright says: "If you just went in and paid £1,000 over the counter to your mortgage account, they would treat it as subscriptions in advance, which is a crafty way of not crediting that interest to you. A lot of people fall foul of that over

quite large amounts."

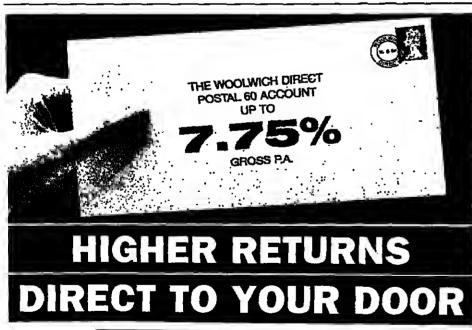
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The retu

Among the top five lenders, both Ahhey National and Nationwide credit small overpayments on 31 December each year, and larger ones from the first of the months following deposit. Halifax credits overpayments of less than £500 each 31 January. Woolwich credits overpayments of less than £500 each 30 September. but larger ones the day after deposit. Cheltenham & Gloucester will credit all overpayments on the first of the following month, but makes a £25 charge for doing so when the sum is less than £1,000.

Another thing to remember with almost all mortgages is that, once your money is paid in, it cannot be taken out again. A handful of new-style flexible loans from Virgin, Legal & General and The Mortgage Trust, which combine the features of a mortgage and a hank account, will let you withdraw any extra money you have huilt up in the account. But, so far, these products have generally charged higher interest than conventional loans, and lack the fixed-rate or discount offers available in the high street.

Remember also that, if you have a fixed-rate or discountrate mortgage, there may be penalties for early repayment which remain in force long after the offer period has expired. These will wipe out any benefits of overpayment.



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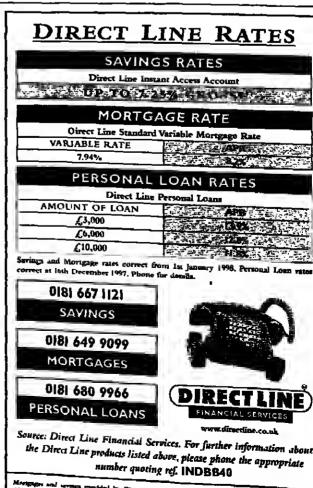
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The return of the handsome conservative

Don't buy a BMW 3-series, an Astra or an Escort, unless you get a thumping big discount. Along with many other ageing machines, they are to be replaced by cars bound to be significantly better. As Gavin Green writes, other new cars due in 1998 include a Land Rover Discovery-busting 4x4 Mercedes-Benz, a Renault Clio and a stunningly revamped Volkswagen Beetle.

The first wave of new cars hits UK shores in the spring. That is when the new Volk-swagen Golf and the Alfa 156 Car of the Year go-on sale here, many months after hitting mainland Europe (where they are already on sale). The Golf is one of three crucial new mid-sized hatchhacks to go on sale in Britain in 1998. The others are the Astra, and the radically styled new Ford Es-

The Astra, like the Golf, is a handsome yet conservative machine that will not offend Mr and Mrs Middle England, and should appeal to the fleet car chiefs who huy so many cars in the sector. Compared with the old Astra, which rode with the finesse of a billy-cart, the new one should have much more composed suspension. High safety levels will be a key feature.

The new Escort makes its debut in the



In keeping with recent new Fords (the Ka "different cut of the same sausage" styling and the Puma), the new Escort will have stand alone looks. "Spy" photos suggest a resemblance, but it can get tedinus. very high tail, high tail lamps, a tall rounded roof, and a Puma-esque nose. Top-level ride and bandling are said to be priorities as Ford, once known for sensible-shoes motoring, tries flair.

BMWs have never been short of driving flair, although the styling is often unimaginative. The new 3-series, successor to the Yuppies' favourite, looks like a slightly upautumn; sales are likely to start in October. scaled version of the current 5-series. This

theme certainly helps give BMW a family

The current 3-series really began the modern BMW styling theme. There were hopes that the new one would begin another. But photos of the new car make clear that it is from the same old mould. Never mind: the new car, as with most BMWs, is bound to drive brilliantly. It is launched at the Geneva Show in March, UK sales start in September, with 318i and 328i

Coupe and compact hatchback versions come in a year or so.

BMW also has a big hand in the most important British newcomer of 1998 - the new-generation Rolls-Royce. The German company has supplied engines and other main mechanicals and, early next year. is likely to be confirmed as new owner of the Flying Lady, adding it to its growing British motoring portfolio, which now includes Rover and Land Rover.

The new Rolls gets BMW V12 power. It will be quieter, faster, more frugal and much lighter on its feet than the old Silver Dawn/Silver Spur, and probably even pricier. Sales start in late 1998. Order one, and you should not expect much change from £125,000. Also in late 1998, the Bentley versions come along. They will be powered by turbocharged BMW V8 motors. Unlike current Bentleys, the new mod-els will look noticeably different from their Rolls cousins.

From the sublime to the sub-mini: 1998 will see a string of interesting new tots. Daewoo, fast making a reputation for selling unimaginative cars in an imaginative way, launches its most interesting model - a Fiat Cinquecento rival - in mid-1998. Fiat hits back with its Scicento (600), which replaces the Cinquecento. It is marginally bigger. roomier, apparently nicer to drive, and more solid. UK sales begin in June. Volkswagen also ventures into sub-Polo territory in 1998. when it launches its Lupo baby car. It is based on the existing Seat Arosa but, givderivatives. A 323i follows soon after. on that VW owns Seat, moral copyright for of the real thing. It has Herbie-like semi-





the concept belongs to Volkswagen. The Lupo looks more interesting than the rather dull little Scar hut should drive in a similar (and very satisfactory) way. Low running costs should be one of its strengths. The Lupo is due here in September.

A month later, a much more famous VW image reappears in Britain: the Beetle. Aimed primarily at the US market, where VW has been having a torrid time. the new Beetle looks like a 1990s iteration

circular style, and a host of retro details. Underneath, though, lurks the (front-engined) mechanicals of a VW Golf. For everyday motoring, the (cheaper) Golf is probably a better bel.

Renault launches a new version of its Clio at March's Geneva Show. UK sales begin in September. The new Clio looks much curvier than the old model. Particular attention has been paid to the interior. where fabrics and trim are to a higher standard. There will be more cabin space, too.

The Mercedes A-class, fresh from an assembly line rest to cure its propensity to tip over, goes on sale in Britain in June. Robert Collin, the Swedish journalist who flipped one, has apparently driven a fettled A-class and managed to keep it on all fours. Changes include a new electronic handling and traction package, new tyres, and reduced ground clearance. Production recommences in February.

Less controversial, and more of an instant sales hit abroad, is the new Mercedes M-class 4x4. Built in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. where labour rates are low and skill levels apparently high, the M-class is Mercedes' first stab at the Land Rover Discovery/Mitsuhishi Shogun 'lifestyle' 4x4 market. Unlike the A-class, the M-class scores bullseve. It not only drives well on road, but is useful in the mud, well made, and looks good (in a chunky, butch off-roady kind of way). UK sales start in the autumn, and both 4.3-litre VB and 3.2-litre V6 models will be on offer. It will not be cheap, though. Prices start at about £35,000.

'There is room

make a bed or

can store all five

seats along one

side, so you can take a long load and have space

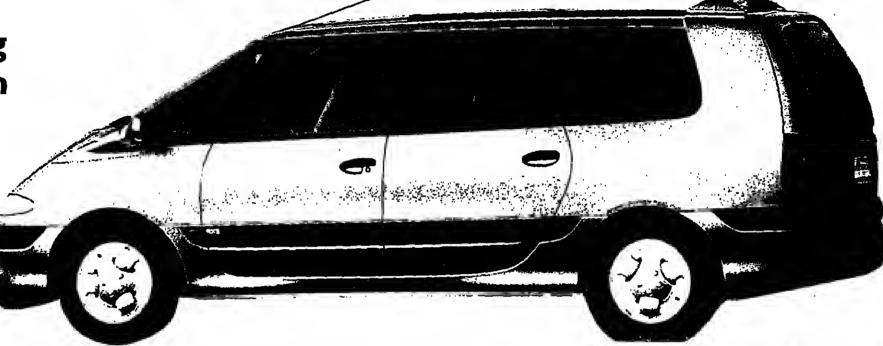
for people on the way back'

two. And you

to open both

seats out to

In for a long stretch with the grand daddy of them all



Renault will not let you take delivery of a Grand Espace until February, even though you could order one now. That is because production has only just begun. But as John Simister writes, it is a shame, seasonally speaking, that this extended Espace was not launched a couple of

Popular people-carriers to date. such as the Ford Galaxy, the Toyota Previa and the normal Espace, contain one crucial flaw. Fill them with sufficient people to occupy all seven seats. and you have hardly any space left for their luggage. A narrow, vertical volume is left behind the rearmost seats, but that is not

months earlier.

gifts or bringing home booty. Worse, when you open the tailgate, you will he assaulted by a collapsing pile of hrightly wrapped packages.

So, let me explain why the Renault Grand Espace can prevent the blessedness of giving and of receiving from turning into a curse. It is very simple. The Grand Espace is longer, by 10.6in, 6.7m of which is between the front and rear wheels and the rest behind the rear wheels. It does not sound much, but it almost doubles the available space behind the third row of

Alternatively, if you specify the grander of the Grand's two trim levels (RXE rather than cheaper RT-X), you will find, as in the top-trim standard-size Espace, that the five rear seats are mounted in channels which let them slide to the best position for the task in hand. In the Grand, those channels extend much use if everyone is bearing further back, so you can slide

Renault Grand Espace 2.2dT

the seats correspondingly fur-

ther back and gain extra leg

room. Even then, the remain-

ing boot space is still greater

The extra channel (ength

opens up other possibilities.

There is now room to open both

rows of rear seats out flat to

make a bed or two, though that

will only work if you remove the

middle seat of the middle row

and reposition the outer seats

further inwards to align with the

two rearmost seats. And you can

also fit all five seats along one side, provided they are opened

than you would have in a stan-

dard-size Espace.

Price: £24,240 (RT-X), £26,340 (RXE). Chrysler Grand Voyager: £24,995. Aus-Eogine: 2,188cc, four cylinders, 12 valves, formance: top speed 111mph, 0-60 in 14.2sec. Fuel consumptioo: 31-36mpg.

Rivals:

not have been possible to huild

the belt into the seat itself? It

nault, but the required rein-

forcement would make the seut

much heavier and more awk-

trian-built. American-designed with hig Vo turbodiesel, 115bhp at 4,500rpm. Five- engine and ample space. Lucks quality feel, the mainstream MPVs, old design but still speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Per- and seating less versatile than Espace's. Mcrccdes-Benz V230 Ambiente: £25,240. eight; no passenger exit from right-hand Based on Spanish-built Vito van, and feels

> out and then stored vertically, ward to move. That is fair carrying six instead of seven, and so there is room for a long load enough; most people-carriers' on the outward journey and seats are hernia-inducing

enough already. space for people on your return. Continuing the permuta-That also means that the tions, the seats can be reversed middle-row, centre seat has a lap belt only. But there is an inso passengers can face each other for picnics and other such sogenious panacea to this problem cial interaction, but you cannot - the belts for the rearmost seats travel with the seats thus disare long enough to reach that centre seat and anchor its ocposed because the belts will be in the wrong position. Would it cupant correctly. If you are would, said the man from Re-

it. Cavernous but crude, with very heavy scats. Not Merc-like at all.

Toyota Previa GL: £24.086. Biggest of deservedly popular. Capable of seating

also squarer, which gives extra

hut it was necessary to keep the Espace stable with hig loads. you want all of them threepoint-belted, you still have a You are not particularly choice of where to put them: two by two by two, or two by three by one which frees up a lot of extra cargo space because you can remove the redundant third-row seat. The Grand's extended tail is

......

aware of the Grand's greater grandeur when you're driving it. apart from the fact that the rear window is noticeably further away. Performance remains adequate from the 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine with which it will be available initially (a norear headroom. And the ex- tably quiet unit for a diesel), and

ticeable damage to the Es-

pace's road manners, although

tra bulk had simply been tacked

tering the wheelbase is a much

course, because it has involved

extensive redesigning of both

body panels and understructure,

it would have done if all the ex-

tension does not do any no- will oo doubt be quite spirited with the 2.9-litre, 24-valve, petrol V6 that becomes available in the autumn.

Otherwise it's regular thirdon hehind the rear wheels. Al- generation Espace: long-life credentials from its plastic body more expensive solution, of and galvanised sub-structure, a space-age cahin with digital displays and cavernous storage boxes, and a quality of fit and finish wholly unrecognisable to anyone who has lived through the propensity for spontaneous functional disintegration that has plagued its forward-looking but flawed an-

> At last, A full-size multi-purpose vehicle truly worthy of the description, for just £1,100 more than the regular article. A haopy new era to you all.

MY WORST CAR:: FORD CAPRI/ ALEXANDRA BASTEDO

Down to earth with a bump

I LINE RATES

I have got a lot to be thankful for when it comes to Fords. They bailed me out when I was on tour by lending me a Cortina estate. It meant that four adults, a child and a dog could get around in-relative comfort.

Then there was my first car, terrible Popular which was held together with string. 1 think: It struggled to 30mph and looked dreadful, but for a cheap first car that was all I could expect. I preferred that Popular to the really awful Capri I ran in the Seventies.

Part of the problem was that the Capri came after my favourite car, which was a huge hlind spots at the back be-



Triumph Spitfire. That was really fantastic, light, quick and a very pretty sports car. I imag-ined that the Capri would be just as sporty as the Triumph, but a little higger.

It was certainly was higger. but that was not the problem. The first thing I did to it when I drove the Capri home to my flat in Mayfair was scrape one side of the car down a wall. It took most of the paint off. And it felt slow and cumbersome after the Spitfire.

The steering was dreadfully heavy which made it a nightmare to park. There was a

cause of the huge roof pillars, and what seemed like a tiny rear mirror. I had a whole series of mini-prangs. I remember my brother borrowing the Capri not long after I had had the side panels remodelled and getting hit from behind.

Maybe it was a magnet for minor accidents. What made it even worse apart from the reluctant steering wheel were very stiff gears. It just added to the trauma of parking. And with a boyfriend and Doberman on board it felt a claustrophobie. I don't think I have ever hated a car so much. That Capri had to

All I had to show for it after a year were a lot of repair bills and huge biceps. These days I squeeze three Dobermans and a husband into a Honda Civic, but if amone would like to lend me something bigger. I'd love to hear from them. Provided of course that it isn't

The biceps builder: the

Ford Capri, toathed by

Alexandra

Bastedo.

Alexandra Basicilo started in the Sixties bit to levision series. The Champions She has appeared in (Absolutely Fabrilons). Her book, 'Canine Care & Cuisme -The Healthy Dog Book', is published by Robson Banks. Showas talking to James Rappert.

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In the spring of this year house prices rocketed in London and the South-east. Properties sold in a matter of days and, in at least one case, hours. Silly money was offered by either the cash-rich or the panic-stricken. But not everyone spent a fortune to acquire a dream residence, writes Penny Jackson, in her review of the most interesting homes to be sold in 1997.

A lot of money certainly makes for a memorable sale, but is that the only factor? Far from it if this selection of properties is anything to go by. So the most expensive house of the year appears, but also a mobile home and a "hovel". Unforgettable can be £40,000 as well as £20m.

An elegant, unspoilt Georgian house that has not been "suburbanised" sold for around £1m with Savills. The family who bought Corsley House in Wiltshire treasure the walled kitchen garden, which is as it would have heen at the turn of the ceotury. Instead of garaging, they inherit a greenhouse with six grapevines and on the 50 acres of grazing land there is not a swimming pool to he seco.

A paddock with a home is the best way of describing Dun Roamin, in Kingswood, near Aylesbury, Bucks. And only a mobile home at that. But it had hundreds of inquiries from all over the country, many of them from people who hoped that mobile could be turned into permaceot



Dun Roamin: a paddock with mobile home in Buckinghamshire

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Ashcombe House, above left, is a rare example in Sussex. The Old Rectory in Devon, above right, looks out over the unspoilt Salcombe estuary

bricks and mortar. No sueb luck. But Blackhorse Agencies sold it for £40,000 to a couple who presumably love horses and know how rare it is to find a mobile bome with any land at all.

Anyone selling in north Oxford has this sale to be grateful for. It may look like an uoexceptional Victorian family house, hut it set a new precedent for prices. Spacious, but semi-detached and slightly tatty, with seven bedrooms, cellars and a secluded garden, it sold in Canterbury Road for more than £900,000, some £200,000 above what Savills thought was top whack. It was the only house like it on the market at the time (May) in a hot area for schools.

What a position - and the house is not half bad either. At the Old Rectory. East Portlemouth, south Devoo you staod in the drive and look across lawns and the unspoilt Salcombe estuary. A rare creature on the market at any time, this house sold twice in the year, oo the second occasioo for just under £1 m through Marchand Petit. It has six acres, with walled garden, boathouse and moorings.

A fairytale cottage with ceilings of twist-

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ed branches and billowing plaster. You have to be the size of Hansel and Gretel to live there since at some points it is no more than 4ft high.

As the only agricultural "hovel" in original condition in England, the Thatched Cottage at Ludgershall, Bucks, with its pic-

ture-book garden, hecame a media celebrity. Hordes of romantic callers came down to earth when they learned it was single storey with two bedrooms. John D Wood sold it for £165,000.

A snip - at £20m. Aubrey House, an early Georgian mansion in west London,

side of Buckingham Palace. In the international league of wealthy huyers, the British are not as rare as they were, according to Knight Frank, which conducted the sale. More than a few have outgrown their £10m homes.

Portholes in the attic used for firing cannons at the Roundheads and a magnificent oak staircase have survived Naas House, Lydney, Gloucestershire, Much else within the shell didn't but "in oced of restoration" - some £250,000-worth brought the advecturous flocking. Being used as PoW camp couldo't have helped. It went for more than the guide of

was the most expensive to be sold this year

but first came oo the market at £25m in

'96. It bas the largest private garden out-

£250,000, again through John D. Wood. Few places have the cachet of The Village, a converted school in Battersea, London, colonised by the likes of David Linley and Natasba Caine, who made moving south of the river fashionable. This threehedroom, loft-style peothouse sold for £575.000 through CityScope. Such is the nature of the place that the oew owner,

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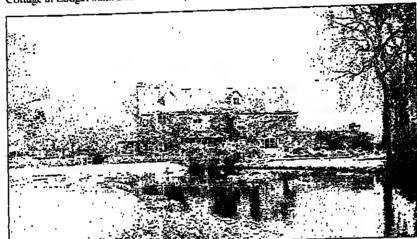
who shared a Spice Girl name, was under seige from the media for days.

Hove of

Oxney Court, in Kent is a 16th centu-Gothic ruin with the makings of a sixbedroom country house. Once Cluttons Daniel Smith had weeded out the dreamers, they had five offers. The buyer from London, who paid around the £260,000 mark, "understood what lay ahead". At least planning permission has been graoted.

Images of somewhere like Gaunt Mill flash through huyers' minds wheo they plan a move to the country. This had it all in a year of scarcity, says Knight Frank, A period property, separate cottage, mill pool, and lovely gardens and within casy distance of Oxford, In a couple of weeks there were 85 viewings and it weot for well over the guide price of £650,000.

Those people who have been waiting for five years for a Georgian house in parklike grounds will gnash their teeth at seeing Ashcombe House slip through their fingers. A house of this calibre and age is particularly rare in Sussex. It went on the market at £850,000 and sold within three weeks via Cluttons Daniel Smith.



Gaunt Mill has it all: period property, cottage, mill pool and gardens

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is year Move on up; you just might get the house you wanted

What do you do when your flat is too small? For most of us, the solution is to find a bigger place somewhere else. But as Fiono Brandhorst reports, the answer may lie just above, or below, where you live now.

Small and badly converted is how Janet describes the ground-floor flat she bought with her partner Chris seven years ago. So what possessed them to buy? The view, of course. Their flat overlooks a green and picasant hill tucked away in a conservation corner in Brockley, south London.

So when space or rather the lack of it was coming between them and their weekend guest list, they decided to move up in the world instead of out, by buying the flat above. "When we heard the owners were moving out to the country, we immediately said we were interested," says Janet. Chris works from home and really needed his own studio so it came at the right

Friends thought we were mad huying by instalments," ventures Chris. "We worried whether it would be easier just to buy somewhere else."

They had to have both flats surveyed for the mortgage and the surveyor valued their original flat at £15,000 less than they paid for it (bought after the "lunatic period" of the late Eighties). "We were a bit concerned at the time," says Chris, "but in retrospect he did us a favour." It meant they bought the top flat for a good price and it was still a cheaper option than buying a "wbole" house around the corner (without the allimportant view).

However, they encountered opposition from their mortgage lender. "They couldn't understand what we were trying to do," says Chris. "They kept saying we'd need planning permission, even though the borough architect said we didn't." In the end the appropriate certificates were issued, albeit unnecessarily, just to satisfy the lender.

The council tax people were also confused but it was just a question of moving up a band," Buying the freehold from the original developer was an important part of the plan. In the end it was purchased jointly with the owner of a third flat also on the ground floor,



It was only after the sale went through that the hard work started. A non-load bearing wall dividing the hallway for access to the two flats was removed. This revealed an 18 inch difference in ceiling height, lower in Janet and Chris's flat, for fire regulations.

From then the project slowly snowballed," says Janet. Curious to know if any of the original mouldings had been covered up, they removed the suspended ceilings. None were found but it gave them the chance to resite doors and redesign rooms. further rooms and a bathroom. The for-

"hut at least we could escape upstairs to a complete flat while the work was being done." And they speak highly of their builders - "no radios, swearing or shouting" - just the usual copious cups of tea. To save money Janet and Chris did much of the decorating themselves. "I've become a dah hand at making good," says Janet, "with plenty of advice from the huilders."

No structural changes were required to the upstairs flat, which has provided four

"The mess was incredible," says Janet, mer kitchen is soon to become Janet's studio. "It was strange having stairs again," she says. "We haven't unified the plumbing and electricity yet," says Chris, "so we still have separate bills for each flat. The gas people just can't understand it's one house - we've had the meters read three

times in the last six weeks." Overall Janet and Chris are delighted with the results. "When you spend most of your life living and working as we do at Chris. "We saved on the cost and the an-

guish of moving and a hig plus was not having to use an estate agent."

Liz and Peter Norton bought the middle flat in a detached 1920s converted property in St Anne's, Laneashire, for a weekend base when visiting relatives nearby. When the larger, ground-floor flat came on the market as a repossession they bought it as a rental investment.

There seemed to be very little to do to it," says Liz, "so it made economic sense home, it's important to get it right," says to buy it." The top flat was owned by a young woman and was the constant source

of noisy late-night parties. Sound proofing was non-existent and their tenants began to complain.

"When we arrived on the Saturday, we'd never know what sort of night we'd have." says Liz. Eventually, this flat was also repossessed and Liz and Peter made their move to own the whole bouse. "The flat needed total gutting and refurbishing before we could rent it out," says Peter. "It was difficult to co-ordinate the work when we were only there at weekends."

The Nortons set up their own management company handling the buildings insurance, maintenance of the common areas and external parts of the property, including the garden, and would like to buy the freehold. "Our solicitor has made enquiries but can't establish who owns the freehold, so we haven't paid any ground reni yet," says Liz.

Once the work was finished the idea was to sit back and enjoy their investment. However, Liz and Peter have found the level and cost of maintenance has been much higher than they expected. Shortly after huying the second flat, the communal stairway collapsed and the garage roof needed to he replaced. Repairs internally and externally are ongoing.

While they are pleased they can specify the type of tenants they want - professional couples, no children or pets and non-smokers - they have had long periods without rental income when the mortgage, council tax and utility hills still had to be

"We bought the properties with variablerate mortgages, but property prices and rental incomes have not increased at the same rate in the north of England as they have in the south," says Liz, "Even if we were able to sell the flats now we would make a loss." Ironically, if the property were to be returned to one dwelling it would command a higher price and would sell more quickly. "It would cost us upwards of £20,000 to convert it back, so it's just not viable," says Liz.

Buying the flat above or below may give you more space but not necessarily hring you any financial gain. While Janet and Chris have aspirations to buy the remaining ground-floor flat to complete their home, one suspects that when the price is right Liz and Peter will be heating a path to the estate agent's door.

Why inheritance is a family affair

Ageing parents, children, property and money can elicit duty and devotion. The combination can also lead to bitter conflict. At stake are assets which, if they don't go to the family, might well go to the tax collector or local authority. Robert Liebman suggests that families which encourage overall collective planning may find an avenue where devotion, obligation and self-interest converge.

Geographical and emotional dispersion and upheaval needu't mean familial disharmony. No sooner had Lily's strong-willed parents reached old age than they promptly divorced. Her father and sister remained in the north of England, settling in different nearby cities. Lily's brother moved overseas, and she put down roots in one part of London, her mother in another.

But the entire family pulls together when it matters. "My sister has been looking after our father, and I am taking care of our mother," says Lily. A few years ago. Lily's sister helped their now-90-year-old father move to a property in her city. This winter, Lily found and helped move her 82-year-old mother into a flat that is comfortable, convenient, and near Lily's own home.

For her mother's sale and purchase, a local solicitor's fee was £800. Instead, Lily instructed a bargain-basement solicitor, saved hundreds of pounds, and got the service she paid for minimal frustrating, and incomplete. But it did the joh, even if an option to extend the lease is still pending.

"We don't mind paying taxes," says Lily, "but care might eat up everything". Their father has joint ownership of his property with his two daughters, and their mother and all three chil-

Neither parent's property remotely approaches £215,000 in value, the current threshold for inheritance tax. But many people of seemingly modest means own immodestly valued properties. Additionally, with healthcare thresholds at £10,000



Care begins at home: 'very sheltered' schemes exist for the elderly

and £16,000, almost all property owners must contribute to the costs of their own care.

Money is not the only or necessarily even the top priority, says Mark Spash, a Private Client and Estate Planning Partner at Piper Smith & Basham, a London firm of soheitors. "The first two priorities are to ensure that the parent gets a decent roof over his or her head, and has sufficient funds to run it." Beyond that. specialist financial planning works its own miracles.

Elderly people tend to underestimate their worth, and it is essential to accurately identify surplus assets, says Mr Spash. "A life or pension policy, for instance, may be assignable to a third party in the event of death. The elderly person can still receive income from the policy but in the event of death the capital sum can be assigned to a child or grandchild, which takes the policy out of the estate." If an elderly couple own a property jointly, "they should consider equalising their estates and gifting out their respective interests to their heirs, hut do so in a manner that doesn't adversely affect the surviving spouse's require-

ments," says Mr Spash. A healthy elderly person today might start hobbling tomorrow, and Age Concern highlights practical questions. Does the new property have level thresholds or ramps for easy or wheelchair access? Are corridors and doors wide enough for a walking frame or wheelchair? Does the bathroom contain a walk-in shower?

Rental properties are available from many local authorities and housing associations that are purpose-built or have been converted expressly for the elderly. "Very Sheltered" and "Extra Care" housing schemes cater for elderly who are less independent than those for whom a part-time scheme man-

ager would suffice.

Age Concern also advises elderly people to "not let your friends and relatives pressurise you into a decision with which you are not comfortable. Where necessary, seek independent advice." The charity publishes a set of brochures which clearly cover all of the main legal and financial issues.

In addition to protecting assets, timely financial planning can help to ward off or soften other barsh blows. Julie, a freelance editor in London. plunged into a vicious cycle when age suddenly caught up first with her aunt and soon after with her mother. The sisters. hoth in their mid-seventies. took care of one another in Northamptonshire.

When her aunt developed Alzheimer's disease. Julie helped to arrange residential care and the sale of her hungalow. Several trips to Northamptonshire were required. But when Julie's mother had a stroke, the occasional trip was insufficient. Julie had to move into her mother's house to act as part-time carer, handle a mountain of paperwork, and maintain her own career.

"I always have work on, but I have no time to do it except in the middle of the night, so my income has suffered."

This blow to her earning power occurred at the worst possible time. "I did not have a power of attorney over my mother's affairs, so I had to use my own savings. A good solicitor would have arranged a power of attorney in a matter of days, but our solicitor took five months."

Ironically, Julie and her mother, acting on the recommendation of the local carers' support group, had obtained a power of attorney for her auni. But when you are in the midst of one crisis, you tend not to prepare for another. It must be a defence mechanism," says Julie, who had been 100 overwhelmed to arrange a power of attorney over her mother's affairs.

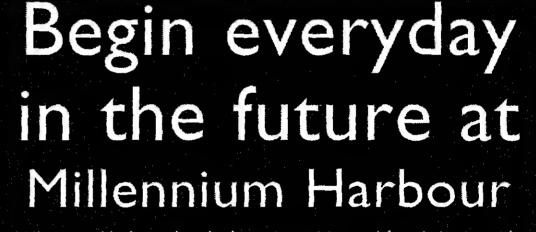
Legal advice combined with financial planning needn't involve vast estates or complicared legal or tax issues. "A son or daughter can pay for and arrange a pareni's lease extension and then, via a Declaration of Trust or mortgage, establish their respective interests in the property," notes Mr Spash. The heir can receive the benefit of part or all of the flat's increasing capital value, and such increases can serve to reduce the size of the parent's estate and protect the financial commilment that the child has made in assisting the parent."

Age Concern England, 0181 674 8000; Cymru, 01222 371560: Northern Ireland, 01232 245729; Scotland, 0131-220-3345: Piper Smith & Basham, 31 Wurwick Square, London SWIV 24F. 0171 828 8685.

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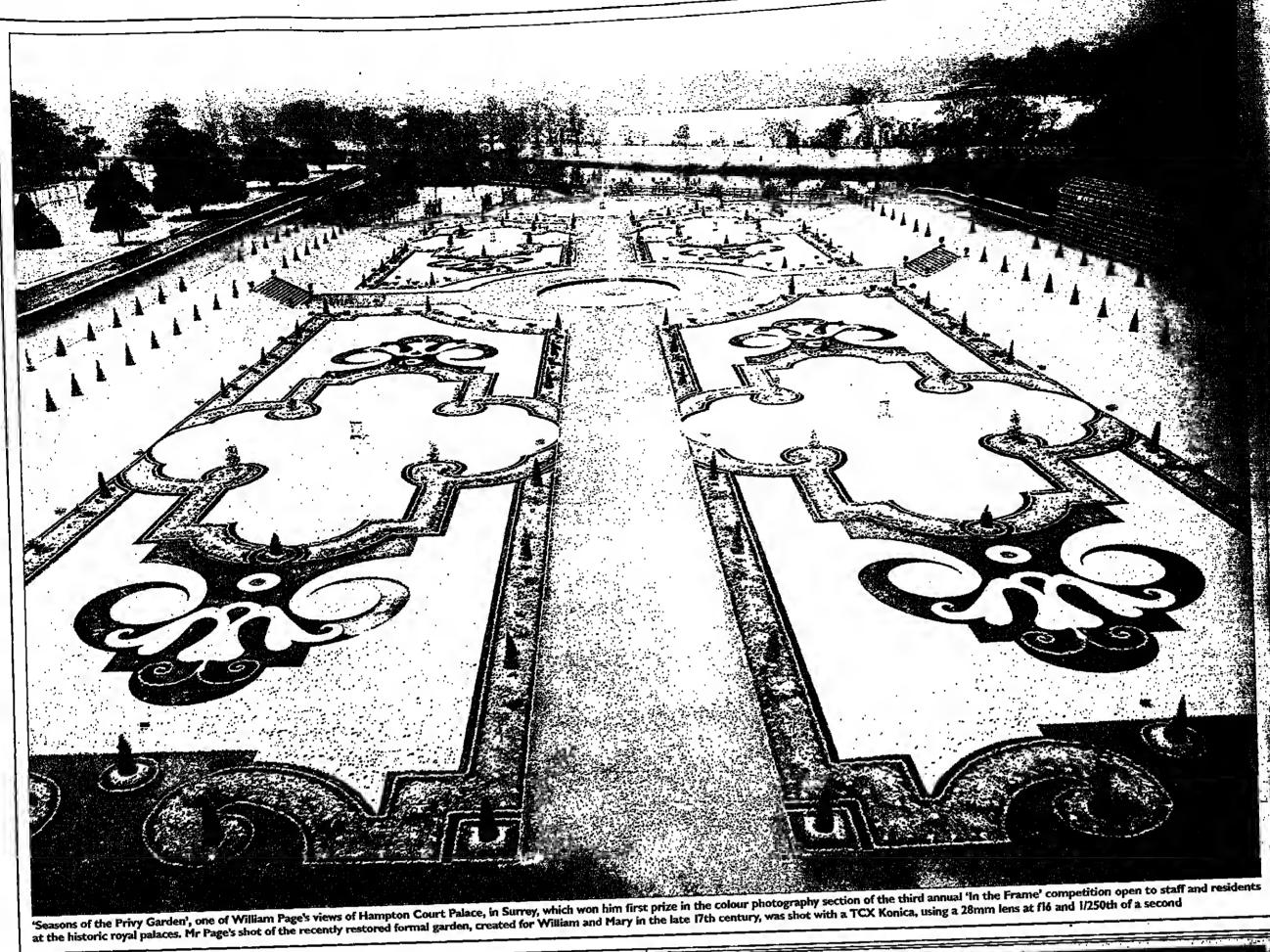
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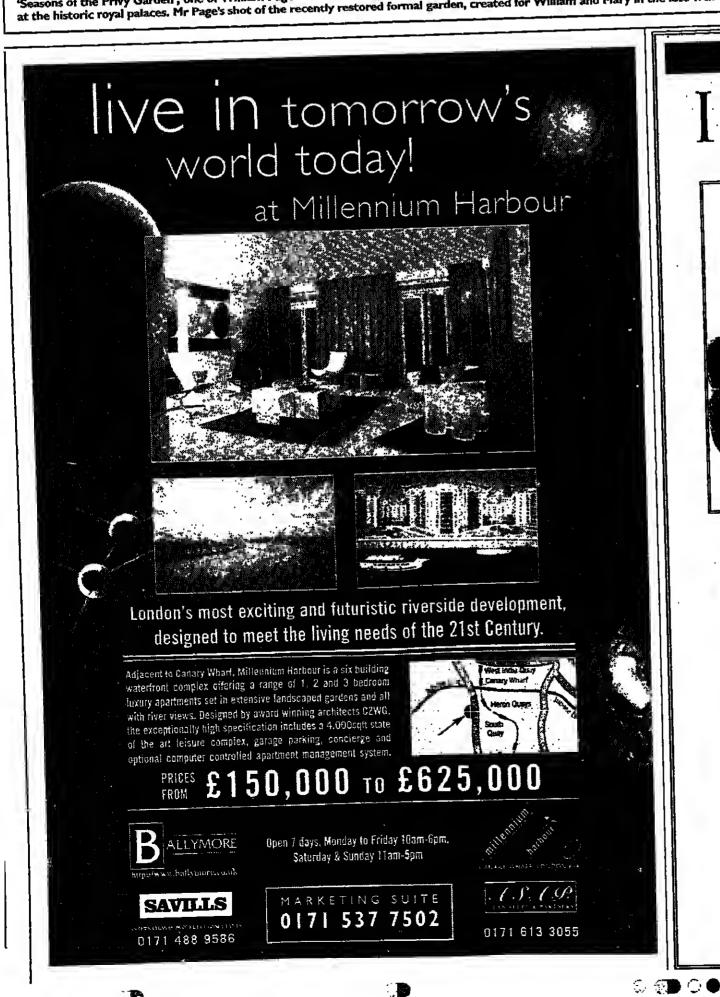


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TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



vant to: Torajan effigies gaze out over their ancestral lands

New Year's day of the dead

A strange, haunting culture; a boldly beautiful island - but, writes Harriet O'Brien, these were not the only ingredients that made New Year in Sulawesi so striking.

Death and renewal: that New Year the neat symbolism was almost faultless. The old year went out with the slaughter of pigs and huffaloes. By chance the new one came in with a resounding dance of regeneration. And in the midst of it all we became the

bearers of great good fortune. It was at the tail end of one December that we arrived in Tanah Toraja, a stunningly pretty region more or less in the middle of Sulawesi. This extraordinary, spidershaped island lies north-east of Java in the huge, straggling archipelago that is Indonesia. Among the many ethnic groups on the island are the Torajans, or "men of the mountains", who occupy a large area that for centuries remained isolated because of its hilly, rugged landscape.

li was largely due to lanah Toraja's remoteness that the arrival of Islam in the rest of Indonesia made little headway here. For the most part the people remained cheerful, pork-cating, palm-wine-drinking.animists, although they acquired a thin coating of Christianity courtesy of Dutch missionaries around the end of the last century.

Very thin, you'd be forgiven for thinking. As foreigners living in Indonesia's capital. Jakarta, we had heard a great deal about the Thrajans' elaborate funeral tites and eerie-looking effigies of the dead that stand, life size, looking out over ancestral lands. A decade or so ago the area was still

pretty much unvisited by tourists, so it was with a sense of pioneering zeal that two of us set out to explore.

At Ujung Pandang, the main gateway to Sulawesi, we hired a car and twisted our way through lush, jungly country of gigantic creepers and up sculpted hillsides of rice terraces to Rantepao, the Torajan capital and

a convenient base from which to visit some of the villages and grave sites of the area.

Traditionally, Torajans live in groups of longhouses. Perched on stilts, these look appealingly ethnic; the outside walls are finecarved and painted: the striking, neatly thatched roofs slope up to a gable at each end - symbolising, so we were told, huffalo

homs. And this, you quickly discover, is definitely buffalo country: such farm animals represent not just wealth but also enormous prestige. In each village it is easy to identify the headman's house from the large number of buffalo horns that are festooned along a central, outside pillar. The overall effect looks almost voodoo-ish - in total contrast

to the people who, when we visited, seemed genuinely delighted to welcome strangers.

You get a similar feeling at the Torajan graves, where on balconies, often set high up on limestone cliffs, models of the noble dead silently stare out at you. From a distance they look hauntingly sinister. On closer inspection you realise that far from

being grim, many look touchingly human. Some may seem a little haughty - but then these were rich people; it is only the wealthy who can afford the huge cost of commemorating their relatives like this.

Funerals, too, are expensive. Back at Rantepao, arrangements were well under way for the burial of a local nobleman. A long procession of people snaked up the roadsides, some bearing great bamboo cylinders containing palm wine, others leading large, compliant-looking buffaloes, and yet more carrying fat little pigs strung up between bamboo poles. Would we like to attend a day of the ceremonies, we were asked. No, no, we were told, you mustn't feel intrusive: this would be a big, public occasion,

And so it turned out: after all it wasn't as though we were bursting in on recent, private grief. The man had died some time before and a quiet ceremony had been performed, as is local custom. He had then been emhalmed, his body preserved until his family could amass sufficient funds to give him a splendid send-off lasting sev-

eral days. It was quite sense event. We judged sereral hundred guests in the large funeral enclosure which was presided over by the dead man himself, lying in a pavilion topped with a Torajan thatched roof. Several other pavilions had also been erected for the close family and honoured guests - of whom, it transpired, we were two. Feeling bemused by the sheer scale of the occasion, we were ushered into the women's pavilion where we sat on bamboo mais among other quietly chatting guests, and were offered betel nut and clove eigarettes presented in silver boxes. Meanwhile long lines of people Continued next page

TORAJA REVISITED

How have tourism and, more pressingly, Indonesia's forest fires affected Tanah Toraja? Emily Drake returned there after a gap of 17 years.

There they were, as they had been in 1980, the effigies of the Torajan dead crowding the balconied ledges high up on the limestone cliffs, looking out over the fertile valleys they once farmed, as if lining the railings to view some great parade. From a distance they are amazingly life-like, and their clothing, laundered and updated annually, is as fresh as the skeletons in the nearby interment caves are fleshless with age. I almost felt that they were old friends.

When I first met them. Toraja Land had been far more difficult to reach and involved a car journey of at least eight hours from the port of Ujung Pandang. Now an airstrip has been made outside the principal city of the region, Rantepao. It is by no means a grand airstrip, being

both small and cliff-locked, but 12-seater aircraft make regular return flights daily from Ujung Padang. Daily, that is, if there are enough passengers. Toraja Land was hardly seething with tourists this time, probably because publicity about the

forest fires in Indonesia and the consequent smog had put them off.

Arriving by air gave a birds-eve view of the country, with the great cliffs breaking through the rainforest and the cultivated narrow valleys that lay between. There was no evidence of either forest fire or

smog, but the ef-

fects of the drought afflicting most of Indonesia could be seen here in Sulawesi. There had just been a rice harvest,

which accounted for some of the brownness of the paddyfields. But the rivers and streams had dwindled to trickles, and the trees around the villages had lacklustre leaves dulled with dust.

The harvest of valuable Torajan coffee is likely to be

small this year. However, the huffaloes appeared to be as enormous as before. They apparfound plenty of nourishment in grazing the reaped rice fields. From the roadside they looked like huge, inflatable toys, especially the two-

IT PERFORMANCES IN 1997 THAT

tone jobs (baby pink and grey) which the Torajan people prize. Each one is worth about £40,000. Despite the increased accessibility of

S .OOKTHEWORLD/18-19

INDONESTA

this area, there is no aggressive development of tourist hotels. These are more numerous than before but mostly come in the form of chalets à la Torajan house. There is still no intrusive attempt to sell tourist tat, though every village has at least one house whose owner urges the visitors to climb the outside wooden stairs to the living-floor where local crafts are displayed.

What will have happened to the place in another 17 years? There is already more widespread availability of electricity; cables, even now, snake somewhat precariously along mountain tracks to reach remote villages. I hope the Torajan way of life won't be debauched by the impact of tourism. For now, life in the area appears, delightfully, to be almost the same as before. There was even another formitously timed funeral (timely for me, that is, not for the deceased) taking place with all the panoply of bright pavilions and colourful processions. And, of course, much parading of the sacrificial huffaloes

GOLFS EMERGING SUPERSTAR

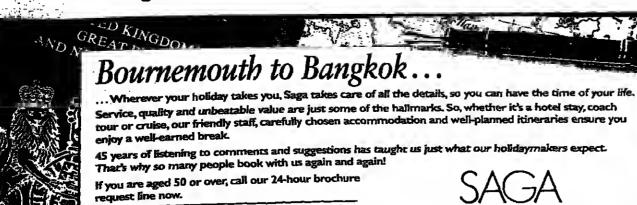
Lee Westwood's golden year/17

INSIDE CITY BREAKS Edinburgh/3

COMPETITION Beach Boys bonanza/5

SPORT

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New Year's day of the dead

From previous page were arriving with their gifts: the wine, the pigs, the buffaloes.

Then we were taken to meet the chief mourners, an event that remains a blur in my mind since sbortly afterwards we were doubly honoured by witnessing the sacrifice of the first huffalo. The great grey creature was swiftly dispatched, his head held back as a large machete was plunged into his throat. In the background we could bear squeals as several of the pigs met a similar fate. We smiled as bravely as we could and tried to feel duly grateful.

That evening, my head swirling with visions of slaughtered heasts and images of effigies, I crawled into bed at 9.30pm. It was New Year's Eve.

The next morning our driver announced that he would take us "somewhere special". It was a day out that, in typically sociable, Indonesian style, first involved driving around town scooping up assorted friends and relations. Where exactly were we going, we asked, once the car was cheerfully crowded with jolly daytrippers? To see the most spectacular. panoramic view in the whole of Indonesia, we were told enthusiastically.

This seemed optimistic. The overcast sky was darkening with rain clouds, and as we beaded up the hills the mist got denser. The friends and relations chatted while we glumly tried to imagine the sight of magnificently terraced hills that undoubtedly lay out there. Then the car screecbed to a halt and the friends and relations tumbled out, excitedly crying

"quickly, quickly, we're in luck". We followed them across the road, past a village, and found ourselves in a grassy expanse surrounded by an arcade eleverly constructed out of palm leaves. In the middle of it were three poles decorated with coils of cloth, a sort of maypole arrangement around which women wearing chaplets of limes and fantastic, heavy jewellery were dancing to drums. This, one of the friends whispered tremulously, was a rare Torajan "white" ceremony. Two headmen, we later discovered, had recently recovered from severe illness and so a thanksgiving celebration was in full swing.

We bad only minutes to enjoy the ebullient scene before the skies opened. As large drops of rain started falling, the poles were whipped out of the ground and everyone scarpered en masse. We were swept along in the hurry and fetched up at the village schoolroom, where the assembled, smiling crowd carefully began disrobing the poles.

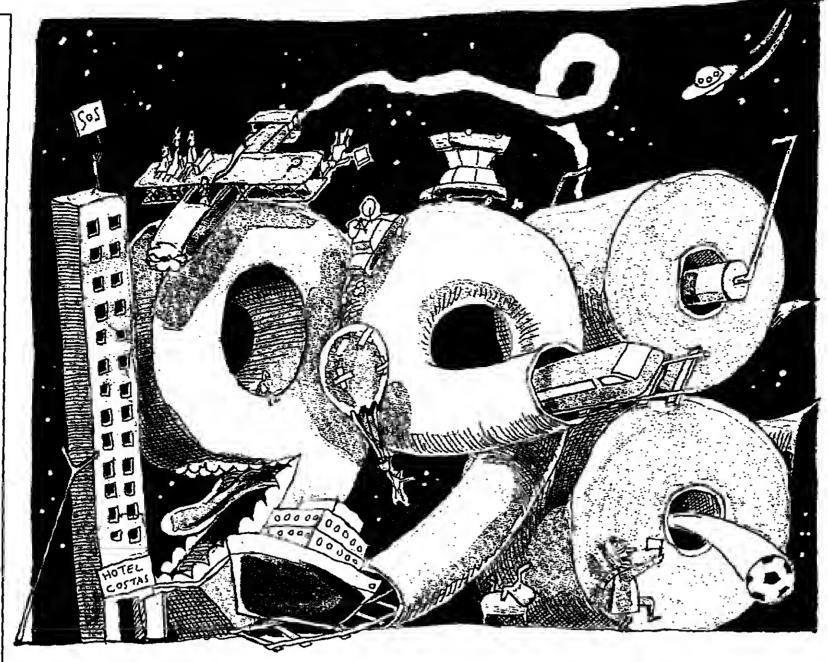
We were crestfallen: what a pity, we said, that the celebrations had to end. Not at all, one of the lime ladies replied This is most auspicious. Strangers are lucky, the rain is good - and, after all, you brought it with you.

We never did see the view that day, but it turned out to be a hell of a good year.

Getting there: there no direct flights between the UK and Sulawesi; the quickest route is via Jakarta. Return Heathrow-Jakarta flights on Gulf Air are currently available for £495 through Bridge the World (0171-911 0900). The Jakarta-Ujung Pandang fare on Merpati is £252 return.

Red tape: no visas are required for shortterm visits by British passport bolders, although passports do need to be valid for at least six months.

Further information: Indonesian Tourist Promotion Office, 3/4 Hanover Street, London W1R 9HH (0171-493 0030).



1998 and all that

Yes, yes, yes, it's your global almanac. Simon Colder gazes into his crystal compass and reveals what the new year holds in store for travellers.

At the time when people are tradi-tionally booking their holiday for the coming summer. Airtours issues its brochure for winter 2004/5, which features bolidays flying on yet-10-beinvented planes to yet-to-he-built hotels in countries that don't yet ex-

From a similar realm of fantasy, Na-"the wrong kind of snow" - not intended as a reference to poor-quality cocaine

February

P&O European Ferries and Stena Line complete their merger on the Channel crossing from Dover to Calais. To compete more effectively against Le Sbuttle through the Chunnel, the minimum check-in is reduced to the time it takes to say the name of all the proud pedigrees of the two lines: Peninsular and Oriental Townsend Thoresen European Stena Sealink Viking Longboat Ferries.

Eurostar insists its four-year-old promise to start services from UK provincial cities to Paris will finally be kept in 1998.

March

EasyMoney, Harry Enfield's new venture into the low-fare airline market. A dozen stewardesses are disciplined for June wearing lacy underwear. A spokesman explained: "When we said no frills ..."

After intensive market research, Easy-Peasy changes its name to Question-Aire. Apparently the focus groups thought this was one of the suggested alternatives, rather than the title at the top of the list of questions. A suggestion that the two names be combined as QnEasy was turned down on the grounds of taste. All BA tailplanes are tional Rail Inquiries blames its failure repainted with a question-mark reto answer even the simplest inquiry on placing the other questionable de- July

The first anniversary of Labour's victory, during which London has acquired the most expensive public transport of any city in the world: some Tube journeys now cost £8.25 per mile.

To celebrate the triumph, the Deputy Prime Minister promises all adult voters a Triumph - from a stock of old Toledo models lying idle at a forthe new company, which incorporates mer British Leyland plant in the West Midlands.

"No one seriously believed all that nonsense about sustainable transport. did they?" purred a departing John Prescott as his ministerial Stag scattered a constituency of cyclists.

When the summer railway timetable comes into effect, National Rail Inquiries continues to use the winter one. blaming the wrong kind of glue in the

Atlantic chart, noon today

South"-a disused military airfield out- "spreading leaves on the lines" (not a brochure, headlined "Forget Margate side Marseille. Its only competitor is reference to a habit involving a mirror. a quantity of cocaine, and inhalation).

"Our hest summer yet." is the verdict of a leading package holiday operator. Providing we all hold our nerve and aren't tempted to increase capacity. there will be no lust-minute bargains." Six other package holiday operators double capacity, and a week in the Med falls to £49.

Eurostar says trains from Edinhurch and Manchester to the French capital will be starting just as soon as a British player wins Wimbledon and England win the World Cup.

After the astonishing victories of an out-of-form Greg Rusedski and an ul-al-retirement sue batket a All-England Club - topped by the amazing mixed doubles triumph of Virginia Wade and Sir Cliff Richard - Eurostar says it has started running trains from the provinces to Paris. where Glenn Hoddle's hoys have just beaten Germany 4-2 after extra time (and yes, that third goal dicteross the line). But since these are supposed to be publicised by National Rail Inquiries, they have yet to attract any

August

The increasing strength of sterling means that a cup of tea on the seafront at Margate costs more than a week in the George V Hotel in Paris. No one is in Margate anyway, due to the summer-long storms attributed to El Niño. BA's new no-frills airline, EasyPeasy, summer version. "Pages fall out of the Airtours takes advantage of the dismal starts flying from Stansted to "Paris new one." says a spokeswoman, weather at home to launch its 2025

- try Mars".

September

Dreadful smog across South-East Asia reduces the 26th Commonwealth Games in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, 10 a single event; blind man's buff.

Meanwhile in Britain, crisis looms: how to stem the disastrous slump in domestic tourism?

Under pressure, the Chancellor increases Air Passenger Duty 100-fold to £2,000 for travellers outside Europe.

This triggers reprisals from Turkey and the Dominican Republic, which impose the same charge on departing British holidaymakers. Thousands are destitute, and forced to rely on diminishing quantities of deteriorating buffet food at all-inclusive resorts.

Richard Branson, who has been remarkahly quiet so far this year, launches EasyBritFlit - a no-frills, no-markings uirline that specialises in moonlit landings in foreign airports to retrieve destitute Brit holidaymakers.

November

Chaos at Heathrow when a flood in the salad bar of Burger King closes down Terminal One; if it had only happened a year earlier, it could have put out the fire. Heathrow blames climatic changes brought about by the wrong kind of El

National Rail Inquiries denies that any trains whatsoever operate in the UK.

National Rail Inquiries refutes its own existence and disappears up its own phone bolding system.



SIMON CALDER

At about six o'clock this morning, Britain's railways should bave slowly risen from their Christmas slumbers; while most other countries in Europe run a comprehensive service, in the UK only the Gatwick Express kept going. It is, therefore, timely to return to a topic that has dogged travellers all year; how are you supposed to find out which trains are running? Mark Broomfield, of Cheshire, was travelling home to Helsby after a meeting in London.

"My train arrived in Chester at about a quarter to nine and, according to National Rail Inquiries (0345 484950). I could catch the 8.59 and get into Helsby 10 minutes later. The Railtrack Internet site confirmed this view. But on: the train north from London I noticed that the printed timetable said this was wrong - I'd actually bave to wait for an hour and a quarter at Chester, as the 8.59 didn't stop at Helsby. The guard checked the main timetable, and agreed that I'd have to wait.

"When I got to Chester. I asked the station master where I could catch a bus. He said that be rather thought the 8.59 did stop at Helsby. The overhead monitors supported his view, but on the other hand the departures notice boards on the platforms didn't. When the train finally arrived, two passengers and the stationmaster tried to persuade the driver and guard (who didn't have Helsby on their docket) to be the 8.59 to Helsby in a scene reminiscent of Three Men in a Boat.

"They finally agreed to stop at Heisby, and our relief was only slightly dampened by a halfhour delay, ostensibly due to mechanical problems, but actually (I suspect) to let smart-aleck passengers know who was boss."

At least travellers to and from north-west England are benefiting from low fares - so low, says Mike Stace of Tonbridge, that Richard Branson actually pays you. "Virgin Trains' new £19 return fare from Manchester to the capital is excellent value, but it is not the most reliable line in Britain." Mr Stace found himself delayed by just over an bour. He wrote to Virgin, and the company promptly sent him a voucher for £20. So far he is a pound ahead. with 368 "free" rail miles under his belt.

A similar story is told by Roger Hand of Berkshire: "I travelled on a Eurostar train from Waterloo to Paris which arrived 30 to 40 minutes late. All passengers were given a voucher for an equivalent free single journey."

Mr Hand is a little concerned about the conditions for the voucher: "It has to be used within six months and is 'subject to availability'. I expect I'll have to choose a wet Wednesday in January if I want to take advantage of the offer." As Mr Hand points out, though, "BA"

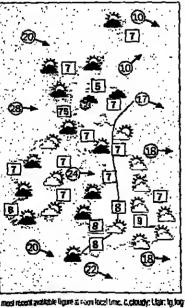
From ohfuscation to omniscience. Helen McWilliam, of the guidebook publisher Lonely Planet, writes with a tale of two cameras on ber Emirates flight from Bangkok. "One camera is fitted underneath the plane, and the other in front of it. They are switched on at all times, and are fed through as one of the options for your seat-back video. You can watch the plane take off and land, and in flight see what's beneath you.

"When I first realised I would be watching the take-off from my seat, I thought it would be terrifying. In fact it was very reassuring being able to see the view from the pilot's seat, and it made the landing seem much smoother than watching it from the side window. I recommend it to people scared of flying - it really makes the journey less daunting. Wherever you travel in the coming year, may

it be safe, stimulating and satisfying.

WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



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General summary and outlook Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cold and blustery with showers, some heavy, and they will be wintry over the hills and mountains. Eastern Scotland will have lewer showers and longer spells of sunshine. England and Wales will have sunny spells and just a lew showers, most of them in western areas where one or two will be heavy. Eastern and south-eastern England will miss most of the showers and have the best of the sunny periods. Sunday will dawn cold and Irosty over much of the country but it will be a mostly tine morning with some sunshine and just a few showers in north-west

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AA Roadwatch

London, A1 between Watland Way, Mill Hill Cucus and Fiveways Comer Car-riageway reduced to two lanes for long Jerm readworks. Until 31st May 1998 West Yerkshire, M1 J43-J42 Slourton to Lothbouse (MB2). A contration and a 50mph speed limit are in place. Limit 13th July 1998

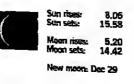
Somerset M5 J22-23 Highbridge to Bridgewater, Major roadworks due to bridge repairs A 3 mile contrallow is in place Until 31st March 1998 West Minitards M6 J6 Birmingham Long-term roadworks Northbound entry Stip to the M6 North closed at Salford Cri-

West Yorkshire Mt J43-J42 Stourton to Collinouse (MG21 Controllow and spred hard are in place Until Jan 21 1998 Greater Manufiester ASS, Old Trafford, Froedworks, Unit! (9th January 1998) Tondon A3C11 Blackhair Underpass Contailes Until 15th April 1998 Bristol, M5 J18-19 Contrallow in operalien across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit, Regular rush-hour delays. Until 150 January 1999. Kent MC J1 Rochester Roadworks with rations lane closures. Until January 1499

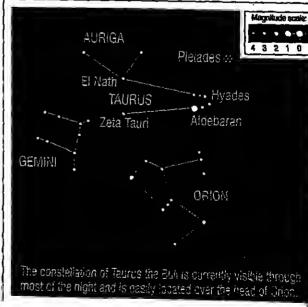
Kent M2 15-7 Sittingbourne to Brenley Corner Lane discurses Until March 1998

Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 to the latest local and national hatfur news Source, the Automobie Association Calls Disagest at 33p per min (chaps hate), 39p per min light other briess, and val.

Sun and moon



The sky at night



The constellation of Taurus, the Bull, would perhaps be more apt ly named "The Bull's Head", since this celestial creature has no. stars to represent its rear balf. Prominent over the brad of Oreon, orange Aldebaran marks the Bull's Eye, while the next two brightest stars, El Nath ("the hutting") and Zeta Tauri, are the tips of his fearsome horns, charging straight for Gemini. A spring kling of stars noticeable around Aldebaran are members of the nearest star cluster to the solar system - the Hyades. Located only 150 light years away, it looks large and scattered compared with more distant clusters. The brightest members form a V-shap visible to the naked eye, roughly on the Bull's nose. Appropriately, the Hyades were the mythological half-sisters of the Pleiades. they shared Atlas as their father. Aldebaran's association with the Hyades is a mere illusion. Though by chance in the same line of sight, it is only balf as far away.

Jocqueline Mitton



Star in the east: the view from Princes Street to Calton Hill, a windswept summit scattered with extraordinary follies Photograph: John Voos

48 hours in the life of Edinburgh

Hamish Scott provides a shortcut to the soul of Scotland's capital.

Why go now?

Because the world's higgest New Year bash takes place in the city centre. And this year, with a whiff of independence in the air, the Scots are really going to celebrate, with concerts, ceilidhs and a vast Hogmanay street party. In the hope of keeping numbers below 200,000, passes will be needed to reach the city centre after 8pm on 31 December. These have now all been allocated, but for more information about Edinburgh Hogmanay events call 0131 473 1998.

Scotland's capital is, in theory, splendidly accessible from all over the UK, with flights from Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Cardiff, East Midlands, Leeds/Bradford, Manchester, Norwich, Plymouth, Southampton, and all five London airports; trains from as far away as Brighton and Penzance; buses racing up the Al. But around Christmas demand encounters supply and gives it a hell of a beating. Britain's train operators have suspended SuperSavers for the entire festive season, which means you must travel on the more expensive Saver tickets: £73.50 return from London, £71.80 from Birmingham and £63 from Manchester. After 4 January, fares subside to much more sensible levels.

Get your bearings

Edinburgh is really two distinctive cities divided by a deep, steep-sided valley that was formerly a loch. If you arrive by train at Waverley station, you emerge on to a bridge that overlooks this still miraculously open space. Turn left and you're in the Old Town, a medieval maze of streets and narrow alleys dinging to a ridge along the Royal Mile between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. Turn right and you're in the New Town, a grid of Georgian terraces and squares that remains the best example of 18th-century town planning to be seen in Britain.

Check in .

The Balmoral (0131 556 2414) and the Caletown. The "Cally" has a touch more character than the ornate THF flagship, but the you £595 before you've even had a croissant, while standard doubles are £209. A through caverns of salami, fungi and exotic

225 1501), where a double room costs £90 including breakfast. Ten minutes' taxiride away in Leith, the Maimaison (0131 555 6868) is currently the trendy place to stay, with double rooms from £90.

Face up to the truth that you really are a tourist, wrap up warm and view all the famous sights from the top deck of an open bus. They leave from Waverley every 30 minutes and the hour-long tour costs £7.

Take a hike

One of the delights of Edinburgh is that the city is small enough to be explored on foot. The ideal starting point is Calton Hill. a windswept summit scattered with extraordinary follies, with panoramic views across the city. From here, armed with a street map, you can plot your intended route. You might begin in Princes Street hefore heading right and over Queen Street into the New Town's exclusive residential heart, where cohhled streets of stately old town houses will lead you down towards the rather more Bohemian area of Stockbridge. You can then take a path back to the centre along the Water of Leith, following a wooded gorge 100ft below the busy streets. From the west end of Princes Street. you could continue with your exploration by turning down King's Stables and skirting the sheer cliffs of Castle Rock. This will take you to Lawnmarket and the Royal a whisky shop where a single bottle can cost Mile, the capital's medieval artery. If you're feeling energetic you might carry on to Holyrood, otherwise turn left across North Bridge for a scenie short-cut back to Princes Street. Walking hriskly you could do this circuit in an hour, hut there's enough to see and a sufficient number of good bars, restaurants and cafés to spin the expedition out all day.

Lynch on the run

Indigo Yard in Charlotte Lane off the westem end of Princes Street is a lively café-bar with good snacks and a buzzing atmosphere. The Dome in George Street is almost overwhelmingly palatial - a former banking hall donian (0131 459 9988), at either end of the size of a cathedral with porticos and Princes Street, are the grandest hotels in columns that soar above the tables. In either place a modest lunch with a glass of wine will cost about £10. Valvona & Crolla in Elm Row suite that Sean Connery stays in will cost off Leith Walk is the ultimate Italian deli where you will have to fight your way

Glass act; the conservatory-like façade of the recently refurbished Royal Photograph: John Voos Lyceum Theatre

more economical alternative on Princes oils to reach the café at the rear. Here you'll Café Royal (0131 556 4124) in West Reg- A walk in the park Street is the Royal Overseas League (0131 find bruschetta, crostini, panetella and other specialities at about £4 a dish.

Cultural afternoon

The National Gallery of Scotland on the Mound off Princes Street has an exhibition during January of Turner watercolours but the collection is worth a visit anyway, just to see Rembrandt's haunting self-portrait. The Gallery of Modern Art in Belford Road (which can he reached from the Water of Leith path) contains magnificent examples of the Scottish Colourists such as People and Cadell. The National Portrait Gallery in Queen Street gives an intriguing insight into national character. Why do so many famous Scots, from James 1 to Bill Forsyth. wear expressions that suggest they're sitting on a sharp claymore?

Window shopping

Jenners is the only store worth visiting in Princes Street; an old-fashioned family emporium with perfect service and a food ball full of Scottish specialities from shorthread to smoked venison. George Street is far smarter, with tailors, bookshops and winemerchants alongside fashionable boutiques. Howe Street and Dundas Street are good for art and crafts, antiques and junk. In the Royal Mile avoid the tartan tat along the High Street in favour of unique small husinesses in Canongate. Where else could you hope to find a sporran-maker or a business dealing in old playing-cards, let alone

Broughton Street is lined with pubs and hars, ranging from the traditional and cosy Barony to the hi-tech post-modernism of Baroque, where steel furniture and ice-cold lager reign supreme. Or, for "real" Edinhurgh, head north up Leith Walk to the mirrored splendour of the Central Bar or even on to Constitution Street to brave Russian sailors, drunken songs and other louche excitements in the Port O'Leith.

The Atrium (0131 228 8882) in Cambridge Street behind the Traverse Theatre is currently the most exclusive spot in town, with new-style Sconish cooking in elegant surroundings at the sort of prices that one might expect. Stac Polly (0131 556 2231) in Dublin Street also has a Sconish flavour but at about £60 for two is rather more affordable. Around the waterfront in Leith new restaurants are opening almost every week. (Fitz)Henry - a brasserie (0131 555 6625) in Shore Place - is as trendy as its name suggests but has a Michelin Red M and a setprice dinner for £24.50. Within five minutes' walk you'll pass a score of other places, many specialising in sea food and the majority far cheaper, that draw knowing diners from the city centre every evening.

Go to church

For Calvinistic penitence go to St Giles Cathedral in the High Street. The spirit of John Knox himself seems to flicker in the gloomy shadows of the ancient church where he preached his fiery sermons. St Andrews in George Street is, by contrast, a church of the enlightenment - airy, open and exquisitely designed.

Bracing brunch

Champagne and a dozen oysters are the perfect cure for any slight hangover and the

ister Street will be serving them on New Few cities have an extinct volcano within Year's Day (as well as Sundays) in the as- a mile of their centre. Arthur's Seat rises tonishingly ornate surroundings of this fa- to almost 1,000ft, with cliffs and lochs and mous bar. Those suffering more seriously from the night before might prefer a hracing walk across Arthur's Seat to Dud- or tougher routes across the crags. For the dingstone, where the old Sheep's Heid Inn (0131 656 6952) offers a massive Scottish are breathtaking, stretching from the borbrunch of everything your heart could possibly desire, from haggis to fried eggs.

wild glens that mimic Highland scenery. There's a footpath by the quiet little road, truly energetic, the views from the summit ders and the North Sea to the foothills of the Trossachs, with the city far below.

Icing on the cake

The Edinburgh Residence, 7 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 7RY

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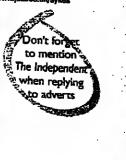
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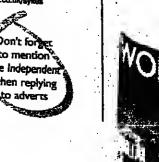
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et's get together and do it again ... the Beach Boys are the key to Beach Balls, the travel pages' annual frivolity

GREEN CHANNEL

WORLDCOVER

uspired by the Beach Boys, oo might want to get your urfboard for a New Year dip 1 our coastal waters. But ews from Surfers Against ewage (SAS) will make you

Unfortunately, current water quality standards only apply during the "bathing season which runs from May to September. Outside these mooths sewage is often left uotreated. Even during the

British coastline. The most common infections caused by this pollution are ear, nose, throat and gastrointestinal complaints. Hepautis A has also been shown to be a health risk to recreational water users, as well as ME

summer, however, our seas

reputation. Three hundred

million gallons of sewage are

discharged into the sea every

day via outfalts around the

have rather a murky

(extreme fatigue syndrome). There are, of course. standards, But only 136 out of 763 statutorily monitored bathing waters reached

"recommended" status in this year's Good Beach Guide compiled by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). Add to that the fact that 74 per cent of sewage-related illnesses reported to SAS originate from beaches that are given a "pass" by the government, and we really are in it up to our necks, so to speak.

Compared with the rest of Europe, Britain's sewage record is dismal. Most British beaches failed to meet the EC Bathing Water Directive's ttiyear deadline to clean up its act, and Britain has been prosecuted by the European Court for two years running.

So is there no way out of this mire? Yes - and it's quite easy. Jersey, Wales and Yorkshire have all installed year-round ultra-violet disinfection systems, which SAS and MCS say should be standard for all coastal areas. This system is so effective that SAS insist that if you want to take a dip in British waters, it is safer to swim in the outflow of Jersey's fullytreated sewage plant, than on some of Britain's beaches.

Surfers Against Sewage 01872 553001

I've been all around this great big world

Fun, fun, fun - for the travel pages' traditional seasonal competition

this year, we celebrate the beach, and the Beach Boys, with a singalong

Answer the 23 questions below, amuse us with your tie-break, and you could be in the running for a couple of the freebies we have received over the past year hut cannot accept. First prize is an inflatable suo bed, secood prize a special pair of Oscar + Dehn eye shades (ideal for long-haul flights to Californian beaches); these lucky people, plus three runoers-up, will win Lonely Planet's cial information on surfspeak (eg surfer's nipple - wear and tear caused by wave action - and TV parking, where a space for your T-bird becomes available just when and where you want it - so named because it only happens on TV). Wouldn't it be nice?

The questions are arranged ioto several groups, most of which can be answered with reference to a compilation of Beach Boys greatest hits and a good map of the US - except questions 13. 14 and 15, which may oblige you to interrogate someooe with vague recollections of the Sixties and Seveoties. But in a spirit of seasooal geoerosity, everyone is allowed one a) San Diego "wild card" answer - write "God b) Regent's Park only knows" beside one questioo and it will be marked correct.

Californian and other girls The first five questions in this section concern the song "California Girls". It features the geo-sociological strata of female society in the US, iocluding (a) Midwest farmers' daughters; (b) Northern girls; (c) East Coast girls; (d) California girls; (e) Southern girls. The answer to each is from (a) to (e).

1. Which group keeps their hoyfriends warm at night with the way they kiss?

2. Are hip? 3. Really make you feel all right? 4. Knock me out with the way

they talk? the world?

6. The West Coast has the ...? c) Breakaway

a) San Andreas fault c) smackhcads

7. And what sort of bikini is dug? a) British b) French c) Itsy-bitsy-teeny-weeny-yellow-

polka-dot

"Surfing USA"

8. Which County Line features "Surfing USA"? a) Orange Essex c) Ventura Which beach doesn't feature in "Surfing USA""? a) La Jolla b) Brighton

c) Pacific Pallisades 10. Which of the "Surfing USA" heaches in the Los Angeles USA Phrasebook, containing cru- area is furthest oorth? a) Redondo b) Maohattan c) Sunset "I don't know where, but she sends me there"

11. Where were the cottona) Over in Oklahoma h) Across in Alabama c) Back in Louisiana 12. If you travel 100 miles west of LA, and 50 miles east of Detroit, you end up with: a) Heroes and Villains h) Barhara Ann

c) Little Hooda 13. Which zoo features on the cover of Pet Sounds?

c) Central Park 14. Is Sirtoa tween Los Angeles and Santa

Barbara. b) The 1957 Plymouth car first driven by a 17-year-old Brian

c) The acronym for Staten Island Rapid Transit Operating Authority - not a surfers' par-

"I can't wait to get back to the States" 15. lo which London venue have the Beach Boys played?

a) Loodon Arena h) Crystal Palace Bowl c) Shepherd's Bush Empire 16. Which Radio 4 travel programme is named after a Beach

a) Going Places b) From Our Own Correspondent

17. Which Welsh valley is celebrated in the song "Hetp Me"? a) Rhoodda

b) Wendy

18. When faced with the prospect of driving up and down the same old street, do the Beach Boys get

a) bored b) bugged

c) huggered 19. "Drinking all night, got into a fight" - but around which town did the crew of Sloop John B

a) Nassau

b) Nantwich

c) Naples 20. Most of the Beach Boys recordings are on the Capitol lahel, whose beadquarters famously resembles a stack of 45rpm records. But where is it?

a) Los Angeles b) San Francisco c) San Diego

"We'll all be gone for the

summer" 21. The last name of one member of the Beach Boys is the same as a Dallas airport. Which?

a) Brian Wilson b) Mike Love c) Bruce Fort-Worth

22. "We'll bave fun, fun, fuo till..

a) Her daddy takes the T-bird b) Émissioo cootrol regulations agreed at the Kyoto cooventioo

prohibit wasteful cruising in large cars. a) A legendary surfers' beach be- c) The flight home on Virgin Atlantic arrives at Heathrow without fully functioning uoder-

23. Finally, from which soog does the headline of this quiz

a) "Good Vibrations" b) "California Girls"

c) "Lady Linda"

To enter, write your answers in the form 1a, 2c, etc, then tell us in 12 words or fewer (or more, if they are especially entertaining) which is the best beach the Boys never broached - and why.

Send your entry to Beach Balls, Travel, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 SDL, or Boys song (or is it the other way e-mail to travel@independent.co.uk to arrive by Friday 9 January.

Usual Newspaper Publishing ple rules apply. The travel editor's judgement is flawed but final.

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THE INDEPENDENT

If you're looking for skiing close to home. search no more. writes loc Gilbert. The Cumbrian fells around Alston, just a 45minute drive from Carlisle, are often thick with snow ...

The old market town of Alston, the highest in England, gets cut off for a day or two most winters due to snow. These conditions bave been exploited by Carlisle Ski Centre. The company runs a popular ski-resort at Yad Moss, eight miles east of Alston on the B6277 road to Bernard Castle.

"Most British skiers head for the Alps at the first opportunity," Paul Wensley, company chairman, says. "But it dawned on us how perfect conditions are at Yad Moss. We usually get snow on and off from November through to February. The constant cold and often the lack of wind keep the snow surface perfectly intact."

Yad Moss is a steep, 800m, fell in one of the most remote and beautiful parts of the country, right in the heart of the area David Bellamy christened "England's last wilderness". The dramatic Pennine landscape is dotted with the remains of old lead mines and isolated farmhouses. The only visitors tend to be migrating curlews - and skiers.

Winter sportsmen began renting the fell from a local farmer a few years ago. Now the slopes have a drag-lift which can tow 500 skiers an bour up the steep, 600m gradient. The hum of a fell-top generator breaks the glacial silence and bauls 30 visitors a time up the icy incline.

"We've got four ski-runs of different lengths and gradients," says Paul Wensley, 300 skiers, though we've been getting more in recent winters because conditions ceilings are a delight. have been so good."

The entrance charge is £8 per day including all-day use of the ski-lift with a 50 per cent reduction on becoming a member of Carlisle Ski Centre. When you consider the cost of a flight to Switzerland or Austria, you can see why Yad

Moss is doing good business. There's also a rough and ready quality to the place which is distinctly refreshing. Forget chic, après-ski bars and designer casuals. At Yad Moss, it's more a case of sharing a flask with a Cumbrian hill-farmer getting away from

his sheep for a few hours.

weekend of the season, conditions allowing, and the centre runs a phone-line giving up-to-the-minute information on the outlook for skiing, "Snow-falls are so heavy that the centre itself occasionally gets cut off," Paul smiles. "But snowploughs are available to clear the approach roads if necessary so access isn't usually a problem."

of population, local acagain is an attraction to

rooms available for B&B.

for a weekend's skiing at Yad Moss with only a few minutes' drive between the two. The scenery is breathtaking with the dominant slopes of Cross Fell, at nearly 3,000ft the highest point in the Pennines, providing a moody hack-cloth to the run.

offering good B&B accommodation with dinner available in some. Rates are low in this remote spot and cost as little as £12 per per-"and can comfortably take corner of the market place. Built in 1603, its beamed interior and low white-washed

Phone the Carlisle Ski Centre (01228-561634) before tranelling to Yad Moss to ensure the outlook is suitable for skiing. For details on accommodation and transport phone the Penrith Tourist Information Office:

Because Yad Moss is so remote from large centres commodation also tends to be of the bomely kind. This the visitor who really wants

The picturesque village of Garrigill is the nearest community with comfortable bed-and-breakfast available at the only pub, the George and Dragon. Next door, the village shop doubles as a Post Office and also has several

A few miles north-west of Garrigill, Alston straddles the South Tyne and is another convenient base for a weekend in the snow. Alston is itself a lovely old town complete with steep, cobbled high street and quaint market cross. It's straight out of Catherine Cookson and recently made an ideal setting

Alston has several pubs B&B in a family bouse can son. You'll pay only a couple of pounds more at the Blueberry Tea Room on the

you feel like another.

to get away from it all.

Garrigill is a good base

for the filming of Jane Eyre.

Here the excellent cuisine includes local delicacies like Alston and Cumberland sausage, sticky toffee pudding and the obligatory full Cumbrian breakfasts. These gigantic fry-ups would fill most people for the day, but after a couple of hours in the snow-fields of Yad Moss, don't be surprised if

Yad Moss is open every 01768-867466.



Chamonix has always been nirvana to the Kurt Cobains of the ski world, but it is now adding customer friendliness to its repertoire

Photograph: Tim Hall/Skishoot

Because

The one-horse town tackles tourism

Quirky, down-to-earth yet spectacularly thrilling, Chamonix is for serious skiers, writes Jane Slade.

The sudden rush of adrenaline begins long before arriving at the top of the cablecar. For me it starts just past the exit to Sallanches, off the Autoroute Blanche, That's when the glorious Argentière - the nirvana for snowboarding Kurt Cobain lookalikes and bome to Les Grands Montets, one of

the best ski areas in the world. The magnetism of the Chamonix Valley, whose ski areas are strung out over a fragmented 20km, stems not just from its infinite variety of breathtaking scenery, or even its reputation as the climbing and skiing capital of the world. Here, there's an intoxicating sense of freedom

Just an hour's drive from Genevo airport, Chamonix sprawls, large and lovely, at the foot of Moni Blanc. True to its quirkiness the town itself radiates from a central square and has just one set of traffic lights. It is worth taking time to stop and stare here, especially at dusk when the glorious string of

mountains turns lustrous pink. In contrast to the neighbouring Ital-

ian ski resort of Courmayeur, where Vivaldi and Versace set the tone and style, the streets of Chamonix ring more of heavy metal; clanking ice axes and ski boots. Fashion gurus and foodies will be better catered for 20 minutes over the border, except for the Auberge du Bois Prin restaurant near the town centre, which offers fine food, a fahulous wine list and home-made beetroot crisps.

Chamonix is for those who live to moonscape of lofty, harren peaks ski, which is why it attracts so many ski. Cleaver, marketing director of the lift racing up the tree- and river-lined world, living in rabbit warren-sized mountain road towards the village of apartments or camper vans. For years the valley has drawn eccentrics, rebels and misfits, many of whom came for a boliday and never went home. Yet the line is clearly drawn between natives and immigrants. For example. membership to the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is via a local birth certificate, which shuts out all foreign bigb-mountain guides, and many French ones, too. Rivalry is also intense between the official French ESF ski school, and private ones. Even the individually run ski areas have their squabbles; for the second year running. one of the big five is boycotting the vallev lift pass system.

Not that the visitor would be aware of any of this unless he or she wants to hire a British high-mountain guide or ski in Les Houches, which has the best artificial snow cover in the area. But the legs of the first-timer will ex-

they have been nursed on the beginner slopes of Mcribel, enjoyed screaming along the empty motorways of Val d'Isere, and rested in the cosy hostelries of Zermatt.

Chamonix is not renowned for its

nursery slopes, giant motorways and guest-pampering qualities. Of course, it has all these things, including a ski club for tiny tots and a night-skiing shipe at Les Bossons, but as lain can't cut the mean terrain find solace on the kinder slopes of Courmayeur. a popular one-day excursion for Cha-

monix refugees. And no wonder. Where else in the world can you find yourself staring death in the face within 10 minutes of setting down a glass of rin chand - as you may if you take the high traverse at the top of the Boehard gondola or the Pombelle chure to the left.

But Chamonix is not all serious steeps. It offers many less terrifying yet thrilling experiences, not least the longest run in the world. The 22km Vallee Blanche is reached via the spectacular Aiguille du Midi cablecar in the centre of town. This off-piste run is more of a visual sensation than a physical one, although your pulse may race as you walk over the narrow ridge at the beginning.

The skiing is easily managed by in-

cruise through a wide-open glaciated lake overshadowed by wicked white spires. The only trouble is that the terrain is punctuated with crevasses. A favourite story told here is about a chap who fell down a crevasse, but when his friends lowered a rope to get him out someone else came up instead.

The smaller, linked ski areas of Le Brévent and La Flégère are more suited to intermediates, as are the lovely. long, tree-lined runs of Les Houches which are only spoiled by the long drag lifts to get you back up again.

Less confident skiers should head for Le Tour, a bus ride up the valley beyond Argentière, which, although it can be a bit hlustery, has gentle, wideopen pistes ending up at a smart restaurant cabin by the cablecar station.

Most good skiers never venture off the Grands Montets, where couloirs drop right down to the village of Argentière and where, from the top of the mountain, a cascading off-piste theme park beckons. With the promise of snow-making cover being extended over the next two years, even more of this giant will be skiable for longer.

Millions of francs are being spent on a five-year plan to improve facilities. Already a new wind-resistant gondola has replaced the slow, threeman chair. New this year is a 20m-long. 8m-high tunnel to allow skiers to re-

perience a culture shock, especially if termediates, who can enjoy a scenic turn to the Lognan bowl from Pendant without baving to scramble up the hillside. Also the stylish chalet-refuge which occupies a remote spot overlooking the Argentière glacier on the Variante Hotel trail is being revitalised, and will open this winter as a restaurant, later offering accommo-

Chamonix may have been slow to react to market forces, but finally it seems to be getting its act together. having discovered the concept of cuscomes into view. My pulse continues hums. They come from all over the company Satal, admits: "We know this further down the valley. Here you will tomer service. A little more friendliis not a family mountain." Those who find Chamonix's best motorways, ness would be welcome, but devoted pilgrims love its old-fashioned, pioneering quality, and the fact that it hasn't sold its soul to tourism.

> Jane Slade paid £99 to fly Swissair from Heathrow to Geneva, and stayed at the four-star Auberge du Bois Prin (00 33 450 53 33 51) in Les Moussoux, Chamonix, for £80 per night (two people, including breakfast).

> Many tour operators offer skiing holidays in Chamonix. If you wish to organise your own trip, the closest airport is Geneva. EasyJet (0990 292929) has just begun flying from Luton to Geneva for fares starting at £115 return. including taxes. British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Gatwick and Heathrow, and Swissair (0171-434 7300) from Heathrow.

More information: French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly. London WIV 0AL (0891 244123).

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flight time is set to be cut still further, with a new track over the Himalayas and western China, which should give you about 50 minutes less time to enjoy the service.

LOW ROAD

If you want to take a really long flight these days, you could take the Philippines Airlines 723 from Heathrow to Manila - about 14 hours in the air. But, for Australia-bound

travellers, the advantage of changing planes in the Filipino capital could be considerable. The airline has just introduced entertainingly low fares for the April-June low season. From 16 April, a return to Sydney (or Melbourne, or Brisbane) through Austravel (0171-734 7755) costs £535, with an optional stopover in Manila. Two conditions: the fare applies only if two of you are travelling together; and Sydney-bound travellers must pay £2 environmental tax.

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ices from Nuwerba. Our journey commences with a four-night stay at the Coral Hilton Resort at Nuweiba. This will be our base both for relaxation on the Red Sea coast to enjoy the winter surshine and our visit to St Catherine's Mon-asiery as well as other optional excursions to places such as the Coloured Canyon. On Day 5 transfer by hydroloil to Agaba and travel north by road to Petra and the Inter-Continental for the next three nights. During the stay at Petra we will visit various areas of the site (entrance fee not included land make optional visits to Little Petra and Wadi Rum, the location of David Lean's film 'Lawrence of Arabia'. On Day 8 retrace the journey to Nuweiba and continue to the airport for the return journey to London Gatwick.

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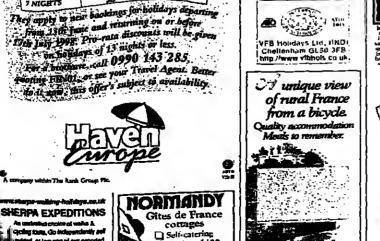
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14 NIGHTS









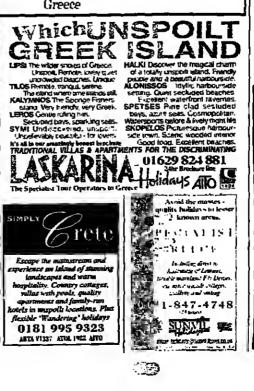












T)

A compost corner that reeks of defeat but don't throw in the trowel just yet

Mistakes in the garden don't matter so long as you learn something from them. Anna Pavard looks back at the tribulations - and triumphs - of

The whole of the gardening year sits on our compost heap, each stratified layer as telling as those of an archaeological dig. Unpicking the heap, to spread compost thickly between all the currant and gooseberry bushes, I am forced to confront once again the mistakes I made, the plants that died and the monster hogweed that got away from me in the study border. The hogweed's thick, hollow stem is still unrotted. I bet its seeds are, too. Next spring I'll have a chorus of haby hogweeds sasbaying down between the rows of fruit bushes, crooning "Every time you say goodbye, we die a little". But not enough, unfortunately.

Plastic plant labels turn up with melancholy regularity. That's a double trouble. In the first place, I should be organised enough not to put plastic on the compost heap. Then there are the ghosts of the plants themselves, hovering over the labels: Catananche caerulea, Antirrhinum molle, Tansy "Isla Gold". Gone, every one. Cold is what did for the snapdragon, I would guess. It's a species that grows naturally in Spain and Portugal hut in our winters it wobbles on the edge of hardiness. Damp probably killed off the catananche and the

So, as I'm cutting down the sides of the heap, and heaving the rich, dark, crumbly fruit cake mixture into the wheelbarrow, the compost releases memories of things I've forgotten. Like the little variegated myrtle "Glanleam Gold" that I swept up in a garden centre. It dazzled me. I had to have it. Where to put it was a secondary

Myrtles are used to having that effect on people. The common one, Myrtus communis, was one of the first foreign shrubs to be brought into this country. It came from the east in the 16th century, when gardeners were mad about "greens". 'Glanleam Gold' cropped up in an Irish garden as a chance seedling of a different myrtle, now called Luma apiculata and is a much more recent arrival. Each of its neat, small evergreen leaves is edged in cream, subtle but

When I had brought it home, I consulted the oracle (WJ Bean's Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles); I sat, Buddhalike, in various parts of the garden testing for draughts, which myrtles don't like. Having found a spot on the bank that scemed safe equally from north or east chills, I dug in plenty of grit to improve the drainage and planted the dear myrtle, pressing compost sifted from the heap round its perfect roothall.

Then this summer, sailing along the car stuck at right south coast of Ireland, we moored off Valentia Island, hired some bikes and, quite by chance, found ourselves zooming down the entrance drive to Glanleam House, where a peeling sign had advertised "Garden Open Today". Buried in the subtropical Glanleam jungle, we came across the original 'Glanleam Gold', the very tree that Colonel Uniacke, who then owned the place, had shown to the nurseryman Treseder just 20 years before. From that one tree comes every single 'Glanleam Gold' that exists here or anywhere else.

Unfortunately, mine doesn't any more. Exist, that is. Not my fault. I promise you. A sycamore inexplicably shed a branch on it and the remains were too sad to contemplate. The perfect rootball joined the rest of es against the monochrome backdrop.

the year's victims on the compost graveyard. But the more I learnt about myrtles, the more obvious it was to me that out on the bank. 'Glanleam Gold' was anyway unlikely to have staggered through the chill of a winter.

So, did anything go right this year? Yes, it must have done, or I would have thrown in the trowel by now. Or is it that the very act of gardening makes an optimist of you? Gardeners spend less time dwelling on past fadures than on future possibilities. There's always another season ahead. This time, spring will he halmy. Rain will come on cue to water the newly sown vegetable seeds. There will be no sneaky frosts in May. Autumn will he long and languorous enough for the dahlias to dazzle even into November.

But the fact that nothing is ever the same for two years running is what makes gardening so engrossing. You boh and weave with the weather, you sniff wbat's in the wind, you begin to retrieve some of the messages sent by your instincts, or the few poor remnants of them that are left. "Getting in touch with yourself", the great cry of the Nineties, isn't about instincts. It's about parcis-

vided you learn something from them. What I learnt from the myrtle was that even down here in the South-west, where, for plants, the living is supposed to be easy, this myrtle needs the extra protection of a wall. My common myrtle is planted against a west wall, where it does well, flowering in summer with little white powderpuffs of flowers. I'm not going to huy another 'Glanleam Gold' until I can give it the same advantage. Or I could plant it in a pot and make sure it at least spent its winters somewhere reasonably protected, from sycamores as well as cold.

things that went right, too - even if they went right only by default. In the week before Christmas, when Siberian winds were piling snow

dows, shamefully, I got the angles across the lane. The humper was embedded in snow on one bank, the bool rammed into the snow on the other; the wheels spun merrily un-

crossly upstairs to change. Framed in the landing window, exactly where I needed it at that moment, was the mahonia 'Lionel Fortescue' in full shining glory on the bank opposite. The jagged leaves were heavy with the weight of snow, but the spikes of yellow flowers, arranged in bunches at the up of each upright hranch, had managed to stay free of it and were burning like little torch-

thinking how it would look next to its neighbour, a late summer flowering Hydrangea villosa. I was thinking that an evergreen shruh would be a good thing to hold the space when the hydrangea's hig leaves dropped off in autumn. I was thinking about a succession of flowering times, the mahonia picking up the haton, as it were, from the hydrangea and handing it on, in turn, to the from inside the house on a dreary, snowy

post heap were some tulip bulbs, frills of white roots already shooting out round the When I planted that mahonia, I was more happenings like the mahonia. If hase plates of the bulbs. Guilt again. I must there had been a wall where the mahonia

is, a jasmine would have given the same ofhave inadvertently tipped them there when I was emptying a pot of old compost. Tulips lect. A winter flowering cherry, Prunus subnever let me down. This last hirtella Antomoulis, might do, too, spring, flowering unthough the colour of the der the pergola I had flowers would be the unsurpassed lost when it 'Weber's Parrot'. each flower as

handkerchief. In the first week of March Tulipa pulchella 'Persian Pearl' was alteady flowering on the bank, the backs of the has ulous magenta petals washed over with sil-

This autumn I planted 15 different linds of tulip in the garden. Many are in containers, where they do better these in der heavy clay ground. I like to think now of Prins Carnaval', quietly buried in a Chinese pot by the back door, preparing to leap outrageous as out in mid-April with its yellow scented flowers elegantly feathered in red. Next year



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CUTTINGS

Bacteriological warfare

Kenneth Fitchett writes from Corscombe in Dorset about problem pyracanthas, which have disappointed him for the past two years, "Flowers have given way to dead, black clusters of stalks and heads where there should be red berries. My neighbour's orange-berried pyracantha has laid on a magnificent show, protected from marauding blackbirds by a home-made scarecrow, Is there anything I can do with mine to ensure I get an equally good result next year?

This sounds like fireblight (Erwinia annilovora), though Mr Fitchett does not say whether the problem is affecting foliage around the flower heads, which is what you would expect with this disorder. Fireblight is a bacterial disease which affects trees and shrubs belonging to the big family of the Rosaceae (that includes apples and pears as well as pyracantha and coloneaster) and it is much more prevalent in the south of England than the north.

The bacteria is carried in un rain for inadversently on secateurs) and settles on pyracantha flowers while they are blooming. It turns them black, but the infection then usually spreads into the twigs themselves, causing the surrounding leaves to wither.

There is no treatment except the rather drastic one of cutting out the infected growths, well below the point at which the disease has taken hold. But it seems odd that Mr Fitchett's pyracantha is refusing to set berries at all. Fireblight usually attacks parts of a plant, creeping eventually to infect the whole. If the foliage is entirely healthy, and only the flower heads affected, then fireblight may not he the answer. Blossom wilt, sylvestris) the large-leaved vine which looks superficially the (Vitis coignetiae) and many same, usually attacks only fruit mallows. trees. Could this he a new kind of blossom wilt which, like firehlight, infects other members of the Rosaceae? If spraying with a copper fungicide clears it up, then the answer is yes,

Warwick's garden in Essex, restoration was already under way, guided and inspired by the new owner. Brian Creasey. The garden, originally laid out by the designer Harold Pelo in 1907. had fallen into almost terminal decay. With the help of volunteers. Mr Creasey has now attacked the Italian garden. wrenching saplings from its formal balustraded pool, and remaking the stone containers where water lilies once floated, When light and air were let back into this part of the garden. seeds that had been lying dormant for years sprang up: the giant tobacco plant (Nicotiana

When, last year, I first wrote

about Easton Lodge, the

Edwardian Counters of

The garden reopens in February when there are sheets of snowdrops flowering in the Japanese glade. The forgotten gardens of Easton Lodge are at Little Easton, Great Dunmow,

Essex (01371 876979) and are open daily (11am-6pm) from February to October. admission £2.

Propagating plants, by sowing seed or taking cuttings, is not in itself complicated. But remembering what plant should hest be propagated when is too much for most gardeners to remember without a prompt. The Complete Book of Plant Propagation (Mitchell Beazley, £19.99) tells you just what you should be doing (once you get the hang of the symbols). It explains how long you have to wait, loo, before roots are likely to have developed, and how long after that you will have to wait before the cutting is well enough established to plant out. I've just learnt that cuttings taken from side shoots of yew will never make leading shoots. That explains the oddly squat shapes of some yews in the new



Meltdown: Andy Ball's fiery furnace in Uley, Gloucestershire

Photograph: Tom Pilston

A word or two of explanation. Andy is a will deliver a model to your specification quietly spoken, genial Bristolian, hurly and bearded, and a man of many skills, not the least of which is playing the banjo. He is well known in west Gloucestershire as a musician, performing in bluegrass mountain bands and acting as an impresario for country masic in general.

A rural

melting

Only a couple of spectators were privileged to witness the latest performance of Andy Ball's fiery furnace - but a great show it was. Snow lay all around, the flue began to hoot and boom like the QE2 trapped in fog, and the roof caught fire in the middle of the action, so that everyone went

pot

away well satisfied.

By training and trade he is a carpenter: he did a stint working for a packaging firm, then taught woodwork for five years in the Forest of Dean. When his marriage broke up in the Eighties, leaving him with no mortgage to service and no real need to work, he acquired an old gypsy caravan and went on the road in Dorset and Somerset - an experience that left him fascinated by horse-drawn carriages and caravans in general.

In search of work as a carpenter, he rented workshops on the back of the old brewery in the village of Uley, near Stroud, and settled down there to build horsedrawn caravans on traditional lines. His creations are works of art, no less, intricately painted on the outside, and models of comfort within.

The wheels consist of elm hubs, oak spokes and ash felloes (pronounced "fellies"), or rims. The upper works are of soft wood, the bowed roofs beautifully lined with pine. Inside there are hunk beds, a table, a chest of drawers and a miniature, cast-

£7,000, and if you place an order now, he the combustibles.

in about six months.

When the recession bit, in the early 1990s, Andy moved on to making oldfashioned hand-carts - and it was these that led, indirectly, to his present venture. Needing cast-fron wheel-hubs, and finding that no major foundry would make any for him, he heard that an old foundry-man in the nearby village of Cam, recently retired, had equipment for sale.

... Hence the splendidly Heath Robin-

DUFF HART-DAVIS

sonian apparatus now installed behind the Uley brewery in an open-fronted shed of corrugated-iron bolted to a four-by-two framework. The furnace is basically a vertical cylinder, double skinned and thickly insulated, about 18 inches in diameter and seven feet high, open at the top.

The method of operation is hardly hitech. Wood is used to ignite a fire of coke in the bottom, and an electrically driven blower is switched on to fan the blaze. The His practice is generally to build a wag- raw material - literally any old iron, but on to his own liking, and to live in it until smashed-up lorry hrake-drums for prefera huyer comes along. The last one went for ence - is tipped in from the top along with

"We get it going like stink," explained Andy, when I arrived to find the furnace roaring, "Then we chuck a charge of iron in, and when it starts running out molten from the bottom, we know it's up to temperature."

His commission, that day, was to cast three-pound iron pigs for Chas Wright, the brewer whose Old Spot ale circulates freely throughout the area. The moulds wooden boxes packed with a mixture of sand and coal-dust - sat on the ground before the bellowing monster. Beyond them, a separate gas burner was heating up the huge, two-handled ladle which would pour the liquid metal - because unless that was at much the same temperature, the nolten iron would explode on contact

Suddenly a cherry-red trickle started to leak from the hole at the hase of the furnace. "There goes the first charge," cried Andy. "Beginning to melt now." He leapt forward with a ball of clay on the end of a stick and rammed a bung into place, stopping the flow. Then he opened a flap high up on the side of the furnace and tipped in a second charge – a plastic sack containing 3lb of coke, 28lb of iron and 1½lb of limestone, which acts as a flux.

"Six minutes to go," announced his assistant, Grant. He and another colleague. John, were wearing goggles, gloves, long aprons of chrome leather, and spats made of the same material, which made them look like Napoleonic soldiers. These, Andy explained, were to protect them from flying gobs of molten iron. "Sometimes it starts running all over the place: splashes can drop through the lace-holes of

your shoes and hurn your feet away," One minute to melt-down. John and Grant grabbed the long handles of the la-

dle, which itself was glowing red-hot on the inside. With 30 seconds to go, the roof of the shed went on fire. Its timbers began to crackle merrily - but the pace was too hot for anyone to bother with that peripheral conflagration.

As his helpers held the ladle in position beneath the exit hole, Andy poked away the clay hung. Out gushed a stream of molten iron, incandescent red, beautiful, terrify-

uid seething at 1,400 degrees centigrade. Lovely patterns writhed on its surface - "like elvers in the river", Andy said.

The doughty assistants poured steadily into one mould after another, and down in the black depths five little pigs instantly solidified. These early models will go out to the brewery's favoured customers as bar ornaments, but later specimens will probably be sold in limited editions.

If the foundry were geared up for full production, the meltdown process could be

ing. In seconds the ladle was half full of liq-repeated all day, with charge after charge of iron dumped down the furnace. Andy may start casting wheel-hubs for his own use, or engineering parts for paying customers; his intention, certainly, is to develop the venture into a money-making concern.

Uley still, thank goodness, has a thriving village shop and post office. It also has a primary school, an arts centre, a small restaurant and a brewery. But now, also, it has a fiery furnace - and that, surely, is a sign of vitality that any village would wel-

NATURE NOTE

lvy, being evergreen, is a symbol of everlasting life - the reason, no doubt, why the plant is inseparably entwined with Christmas. Yet, with its creeping habit and poisonous leaves, it seems a rather sinister and mysterious form of decoration. It can certainly be toxic if eaten in large quantities, and one hears of horses killed by it. Yet deer hrowse on it with relish, especially in cold weather. It is often fatal to trees - but not because (as some suppose) it drains away their life-blood. Like most plants. it gets nutrients through its roots, and when it grows up a trunk, with hundreds of suckers clinging to the bark, it is merely

using the tree as a convenient support. Danger comes from the fact that its dense mass of leaves greatly increases what foresters call the tree's sail area, raising wind resistance to such a degree that host and parasite are liable to be blown over together. Yet ivy has its uses: its foliage offers good habitat to small birds, harbouring thousands of insects for them to eat, and its berries make excellent food at this time of year, when other kinds of wild provender run short.

Duff Hart-Davis

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



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In search of the modern pastoral

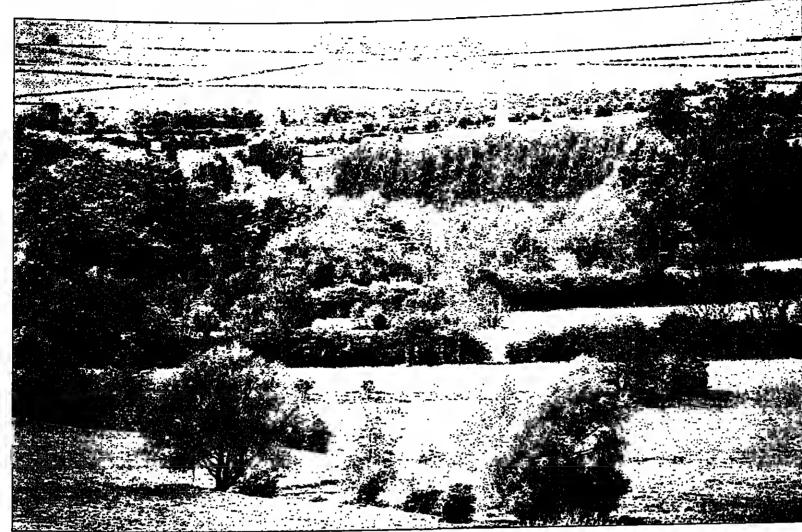
A rural walk, an invigorating intake of fresh air – 'tis the season to be hiking. But, writes Richard D North, what does the countryside amount to today - and how does this resonate with urban life?

For some people, a walk in the country is a sort of radicalism all by itself. They remember that the National Trust was co-founded by a Ruskinite clergyman who led the first mass trespass in the Lake District. And then they recall the romantic socialists of the northern cities who went out on to moorland and braved the gamekeepers there.

Probably most people who take up the Ramhlers' Festival of Winter Walks offer of routes, guides and company to help work off the Christmas torpor will do so for sheer pleasure, and perhaps with a bit of what the English rightly are shy of calling the "spiritual". Not going on the walks but imagining them is heady enough. Here is Cookham Dean (and thoughts of Stanley Spencer) or Buckinghamshire's Burnham (meet "end of Beeches Road, Farnham Common"). Anyone within a country mile ought to try to make the Abbeydore, Herefordshire event, beginning at the only roofed Cistercian Abbey in southern Britain, 1 am sorely tempted by Souldrop, Bedfordshire, simply by the promise of its name.

However, wherever people walk, they will find a terrain which actually is in hot dispute. Is that neat new crop of houses a disgrace? Should it bave been built in the joke vernacular (very successfully adopted, by the way, in some infill near Abbeydore)? Can it be right that there is a small industrial estate in this field? Why on earth aren't there better car parking arrangements at this beauty spot? Why are there any at all?

William Waldegrave, one-time Green minister, has been writing in the Daily Telegraph about how messing about with the middle classes' extended garden - the countryside - may yet turn out to be New Labour's Achilles' heel. Increased urbanisation as we abandon the traditional family but instead spawn more than one family each, or none at all, will indeed impose tremendous strain.



Perfectly formed: the Cotswolds epitomise the middle-class attitude to the countryside as an extended garder

Photograph: Tom Pilston

So what else is new? Every generation has mourned the passing of the countryside of the day-before-yesterday. That is the message of the Pastoral, a literary and painting genre which is in the limelight at the moment. At the Royal National Theatre, Frank McGuinness has a powerful (and over-egged) piece about Edmund Spenser, England's great Elizabethan Pastoralist, in which the exiled poet wrestles with the supposed innocence of mythic Irish countryfolk in dire need of "civilisation", Spenser

does not notice the rustics are using him rather more cannily than he they. The problem is that nice aesthetic urban people want their nature and their natural people - the Pastoral - to stand about idly in a timewarp. in case they are wanted as a subject for admiration, or education. Rustic dynamism has always been a hit of an embarrassment to the simple-minded, and the rustic and primitive have always been best seen as a

metaphor for both halm and harm. The civilised are necessarily voyeuristic

when they consider the country. They are dangerously affected and fashion-conscious as they go about making the Pastoral take landscape form. So Tom Stoppard's hilarious. Ircadia had an English aristocrat of the early 19th century rip up the Italian garden of her forebears to replace it with the latest thing, which is something much more expensive and a little more primitive. Oddly though, as the Villa D'Este gives way to the paintings of Claude as an inspiration - and

grand sweep of Capability Brown and then the arboured and laked vision of Repton it remains only the Pastoral of Virgil which is being invoked in all the different styles.

So civilised people invent and reinvent Golden Age ruralities as waking dreams through which they can discuss what they have gained and lost, and in which they can create sanctuaries from the modern. Tom Stoppard's new creation. The Invention of Love, has A E Housman torn between the formal gardens are swept away before the classical and the romantic, which are -rough-

ly - the civilised and the wild. Worcestership born Housman's Shropshire Lad used the Pastoral manner as it always has been used to discuss very civilised people getting to grips with natures (their own) as yet untamed. It was, like the vision from the Malverns in the Shropshire-born Langland's Fiers Plowman, a conceit with which to talk about unmentionables. Stoppard's new play deals with the problem that clever romantic moderns would get locked up for classical (that is, civilised) behaviour (call it pederasty), just as his Arcadia discussed the way that romantic behaviour is often merely a neurotic response to being over-civilised.

Ramble

The modern Picturesque - that 18th-century halfway house between the wild and the prim - now takes in urban decay. The farouche Fiona Shaw is currently inhabiting a near-derelict music hall with her personification of TS Eliot's Wasteland. Its setting is as bleak as the limestone pavement invoked by McGuinness at the Cottesloe, and its style, for good and ill is as frenetic as his. The Wasteland is about a rundown, listless London. The poem is an elegy for lost spiritual glamour, but faces a bit of a problem now. This is that the desolate, unreconstructed cityscape of which it speaks is now, like the old countryside, in such short supply that it has acquired a romance of its own.

Ideas such as this made Patrick Keiller's wonderful film, London, as gripping as it was static, deadpan and literary. Now his Robinson In Space, to be shown in Jannary on BBC2 (and available on video), gives us an account of the hegemony beyond the M25 of the ersatz and the modern. Keiller sees the corporate sprawl of leisure parks and carparks, and a creeping disintegration. elsewhere, as a troubling sort of public affluence in the midst of private squalor. It would he an odd Pastoral, except that its nostalgic tone is so familiar.

'Mutabilitie' at the Cottesloe, RNT until 17 February; 'The Invention of Love' at the Lyttelton, RNT until 11 March at least. The Wasteland', Wilton's Music Hall, Grace's Alley, Ensign St, London E1, until 11 Jan. 'London, 1993' and 'Robinson In Space, 1997' directed by Patrick Keiller, BF1/Connoisseur, £17.49 each available from HMV Direct, 0990 334578.

GAMES

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Dr Roger Mugford, 51, animal psychologist.

The best games are animal games. I invented one called Kong Dong played with lacrosse rackets, two people and he players toss the ball, or "Kong", to one another using the sticks and the poor dog has to trudge backwards and forwards trying to retrieve its favourite

It's not really very kind is it? But dogs do like it, and humans, being what they are, will keep dropping the hall, and the dog gets possession. Not many people in England have lacrosse sticks, but I'm told there's a loyal following in Canada. I've been trying to play a new American game: My Dog Can Do That! A board game you can play with your dog. It's full of all these dogtricks, like "Prayers for Poppa" where the dog lies down and puts his paws together, or "Circus Dog", where he has to balance a treat on his snout.

I've decided that it's too difficult. American dogs are probably much better behaved than their British counterparts, who are all wild and inventive, refusing to

sit on little carpets for exactly five minutes or roll over and waggle their feet. British dogs do this sort of thing when they want to, and not in order to participate in a

Irish Reindog, with antlers on his head, towing a Christmas sleigh at a disabled children's party where I was Santa. He was absolutely hrilliant, but ibere's no way he could do any of those stupid American tricks. Dogs are hetter at hide and seek, and printing their pawmarks on white linen jackets when you're just about to go out to dinner. So I don't want this board-game, and if any reader would like it, just call me and they can

Roger Mugford is the head of the Animal Behaviour Centre in Chertsey, Surrey, where he sees all kinds of animals with behavioural problems - mainly dogs. His books 'Dog Training the Mugford Way' and 'Dr Roger Mugford's Casebook' have saved the sanity of many dog owners. The ABC can be contacted at 01932-566696

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

Have you had a relaxing time over the start of the festive season? I Question 2: trust that you will still find time and energy to enter our Christmas

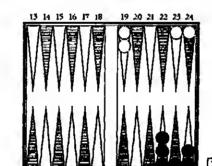
The First Prize is a copy of Backgamunon by Paul Magiel. There are two runners-up prizes of Backgammon for Winners by twice world champion Bill Robertie.

All you have to do is answer the following three questions. Entries should be postmarked no later than 5 January 1998 and should be addressed to: Backgammon Competition, Saturday Games, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf,

Question 1: Black on roll:

a) Should Black redouble?

 h) If redoubled. should White take or drop?

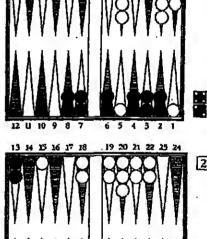


Black to play 42. Should he play:

(a) 19/13; (b) 21/15; (c) 7/5*/1*; (d) 7/5*, 13/9

> Question 3 Black to play

Should he play: h) 13/8, 13/9 c) 8/3, 8/4



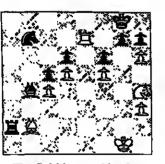
CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

The new Wimbledon-style knock-out format for the Fide world championship produced a Wimhledon-like result with two Englishmen meeting in the semi-finals. But which of Niget Short and Michael Adams will turn out to be the Greg Rusedski and which the Tim Henman is still undecided at the moment of writing.

The Pete Sampras of the event, bowever, has undoubtedly been the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand who has steered a faultless path through the precarious two-game knockout matches and rapid playoffs. (Not that Short and Adams have been any less impressive, hut Anand earns the Sampras role simply by virtue of having been the highest seeded player at the start.)

Anand will play Boris Gelfand, with the winner meeting Short or Adams. When only one man remains undefeated, the contest then moves from Groningen to Lausanne for a six-game match between the last

survivor and Anatoly Karpov. Here is the game that took Anand through to this stage. Playing against the imaginative Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov, Anand kept a firm control throughout the game, methodically denying space to Black's Q-side pieces while organising his own attack on the opposite wing.

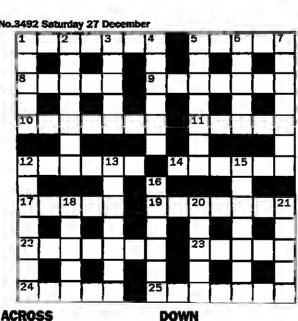


The finishing combination is very neat. Just as Black seemed to have fought bis way to some Q-side activity, Anand stifled his hopes with 36.h6! (see diagram). After 36...gxh6 37.Bxf6 White wins comfortably, but the alternative, as played in the game, did not last much longer.

White: Viswanathan Anand Black: Alexei Shirov

| DIACE WICKEI DITTO | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 1 e4 e5 | 22 d5 Bd8 | |
| 2 Nf3 Nc6 | 23 Bd2 Qa6 | |
| 3 Bb5 a6 | 24 Qa4 Ra8 | |
| 4 Ba4 Nf6 | 25 Bc3 Nb7 | |
| 5 0-0 h5 | 26 Qd1 Ba5 | |
| 6 Bb3 Bc5 | 27 Bb2 Bb4 | |
| 7 a4 Rb8 | 28 Nh4 Bg6 | |
| 8 c3 d6 | 29 f4 Qa4 | |
| 9 d4 Bb6 | 30 Qxa4 Rxa4 | |
| 10 Na3 0-0 | 31 f5 Rfa8 | |
| 11 axb5 axb5 | 32 Re7 Bh5 | |
| 12 Nxb5 Bg4 | 33 g4 f6 | |
| 13 Be3 exd4 | 34 gxh5 Rxa2 | |
| 14 cxd4 Qe8 | 35 Rxa2 Rxa2 | |
| 15 h3 Bd7 | 36 h6 Rxb2 | |
| 16 Nc3 Nxe4 | 37 Rxg7+ Kh8 | |
| 17 Re1 Nxc3 | 38 Rxb7 Bc3 | |
| 18 hxc3 Oc8 | 39 Rd7 Kg8 | |
| 19 c4 Bf5 | 40 Rd8+ Kf7 | |
| 20 Re2 Na5 | 41 Rh8 Bd4+ | |
| 21 Ba2 ජ | 42 Kf1 resigns | |
| | | |

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Young mares (7) German beer-mug (5) Track events (5) Intellectually undemand-

ing (3-4) Ogre (7) Unfasien (5) Suhmissive (6)

14 State of unconsciousness 17 Reject with contempt (5)

19 Wrestling hold (7) 22 Story (7) 23 Vagrant (5) 24 Fear (5) 25 Set aside for particular

Medium for exchange of

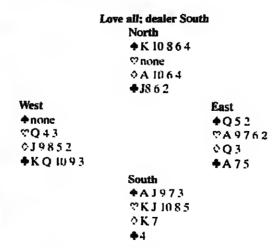
views (5) Terse (7) Small picture (5) Remuneration (6) By-product of woodwork

White heron (5) 1998? (3,4) Throw away (7) Sluggish (7) In proportion (3,4) 16 Unnerve (6) 18 Pawnbroker (5)

20 Engine (5) 21 Insulating fibre (5) purpose (7)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Chart, 4 Arouse (Charterhouse), 9 Shampoo, 10 Thefi, 11 Need, 12 Opossom, 13 Ear, 14 Marx, 16 Able, 18 Gel, 20 Emperor, 21 Open, 24 Corgi, 25 Tableau, 26 Linger, 27 Teddy, DOWN: 1 Casino, 2 Aware, 3 Type, 5 Rational, 6 Utensil, 7 Entomb, 8 Donor, 13 Exercise, 15 Aspirin, 17 Pencil, 18

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



A defender who holds Q.x.x in the trump suit and who has already made one trick against a small slam will wait fremulously to see how declarer will play the frumps. This, however, was a deal where unusual action was

South opened One Spade, West hid Two No-trumps (unusual, showing the minors) and North hid Four Hearts. His bid was distinctly unwise: it was designed to show spade support and a heart shortage but he might well have played there if East had not doubled. Slowly the North-South wires became uncrossed and the final

contract was Six Spades. West led the king of clubs and South ruffed the club continuation. Timing the play carefully, declarer ruffed a heart, cashed the two top diamonds, and ruffed another heart. Two more clubs and two more hearts were trumped and now a diamond lead saw East helplessly ruffing low after which declarer made his two top trumps separately.

It looks all wrong (and, indeed, after the disjointed bidding, East did not pay too much attention to the problem) but how should he have defended?

Overtake the king of clubs with his acc and return a trumpl Undoubtedly this solves any problems as to the whereabouts of the queen but, rather more importantly. it leaves declarer with only 11 tricks.

RECORDS William Hartston

As we prepare to practise dating things with a '98 instead of '97, it is a good time to look hack on the records of the past year:

Twins: Janet Pasaye of Illinois gave birth to the most widely separated twins; the first appeared on 26 October 1996, the second on 26 January 1997, the 92 days difference being a new world record.

Skates: Dirk Auer, an engineering student from Frankfurt, set a new world speed record of 153mph on inline skates. He reached the record speed while being towed behind a Porsche.

Cigars: A box of 25 Cuban cigars fetched 16.100 Swiss francs at auction in Geneva. The price of 244 francs (about £250) per cigar is a new record,

Mechanical digger: Hugb Edeleanu set a new record time of 22 hours, 10 minutes and 30 seconds for driving a mechanical digger from Land's End to John

Stamps: Dean Gould of Felixstowe set a new record by sticking 209 stamps on envelopes. Mr Gould also holds records for pancake tossing and heermat

Monopoly: Five Belgians set a new record by playing Monopoly underwater for 30 hours 15 minutes.

Windows: Terry Burrows reclaimed the world window-cleaning record by cleaning three 45-inchsquare windows in 18.46 seconds.

Hot-dogs: Hirofumi Nakajima of Kiofu. Japan broke his own world record when he are 241/2 hot dogs in 12 minutes to retain his world hot-dog eating championship title in New York.

Jokes: Two Estonians failed in their attempt to set a new record by telling jokes for 61 hours non-stop. Their copy of the Guinness Book of Records was an old one and its figure of 60 hours had been increased to 100 hours by a Peruvian in 1990.

Rambling into 1998. in a mood of celebration, the and Ride, 6 miles D-01392 413073. Rose Ramblers' Association has Ash: 11.30am, Five crossway, 5 3/4 miles organised a huge variety of walks

around Britain. Most walks are between four and seven miles and those that are longer are often arranged in a figure of eight so people can stay for either the whole or half the day. It is advisable to take food and drink. or ring the contact to find out if there will be a pub stop. It would also be wise to have warm, waterproof clothing and stout footwear. Walks marked with a D indicate that dogs on leads are welcome. Telephone numbers marked with an (e) indicate evening only and those marked with a (d) indicate daytime only.

ENGLAND

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Bedfordshire: 27 Dec: Roxton: 1.15pm, Bedford Park Gates, 5 miles - 01234 301027. Clifton: 2pm, church, 4 miles D - 01462 672906 (c). 28 Dec: Luton: 10am, Putteridge Recreation Centre, 6 miles D = 01582 661944 (c). Brogborough: 10am, picnic site. 10 miles D - 01908 584348. Broom: 10am & 1.45pm, The Green, 6 & 3 miles D - 01767 318487. 30 Dec: Cople: 10am, church, 6 miles D - 01234 359256. Streatlev: 10am, Sharpenboe Clappers NT cp. 7 miles, - 01582 505808. 31 Dec: Clophill: 10am, The Green, 5-6 miles D = 01234 381508, 1 Jan: Souldrop: 10am, church, 6 miles D - 01234 822294. Shillington: 10.30am, Musgrave Arms, 6 miles D-01234

road cp on left, 5 miles D = 0118 9882674. Bristol: 28 Dec: Doynton: 10.30am, church, 6 miles D - 0117 9315033.

Buckinghamshire: 28 Dec: Lanc End, or High Wycombe: 10am & 1.30pm, village cp. both 5 miles D - 01494 881543 (am walk) 01628 483430 (pm walk). Burnham -10.15am, Lord Mayors Drive parking area, end of Beeches Rd, Farnham Common, 5 miles - 01628 622991. Slough: 10.30am, Black Park Country Park cp (£1 fee), 5 miles D - 0118 9772179 (e). 30 Dec: Weston Turville: 11am, layby fronting Weston Turville Reservoir, World's End Lane, 5 miles D-01296 427717. 1 Jan: Long Crendon: 11am, The Square, adj. to B4011, Bicester Rd, 6 miles D - 01296 427717. Stokenchurch: 11am, Cowleaze Wood park-

Cheshire: 27 Dec; Congleton: 10am, library

Devon: 28 Dec: Totnes: 10.30am, National Trust Shop, 5-6 miles D - 01803 863043. Musbury: 10.30am, village hall, 6 miles. D. Ashcombe: 10am, Mamhead obelisk cp. 6-7 miles D = 01392 413073. 30 Dec: Newton Poppleford: 10am, cp behind church. 8 miles D -01392 413073. 31 Dec: Totnes: 10.30am, Pavilion cp. 5 miles D - 01803

(125) (125) (125) (125) (Z) (100 (100) D = 01271 342703. Dorset: 27 Dcc; Dorchester: 1.30pm. Maiden Castle cp. 4 miles - 01305 784672. 1 Jan: Compton Abbas: 10.30am or 1.30pm,

Airfield, 8 & 4 miles D - 01258 820209.

Bournemouth: 10.30am, Riverside Avenue, opp. Tesco entrance off Castle Lane East, 8 miles - 01202 470543. Durham: 28 Dec: Ebchester: 10am, Bridge End, 6 miles D - 01207 560208. Durham City: 1.30pm, Moor House layby on A690, 1 miles NE of A1 junction, 5 miles D - 0191 3866886. Essex: 27 Dec: High Easter: 10am. Cock and Bell pub, fig. of eight, 8 miles - 01245 609064. East Hanningfield: 10.30am, village hall cp, 3-4 miles - 01245 223657. 28 Dec: Great Waltham: 10am, A130 layby north of

land Haven Country Park cp. 8 miles D -01255 551301, 30 Dec: Snaresbrook: 10am, station, outside book-

Berkshire: 1 Jan: Chapel Row; 11am, off-

ing area, 8 miles D - 01494 528381.

Cambridgeshire: 28 Dec: Fenstanton: 1.30pm, Chequers Street cp. 4 miles D -01480 461405. Thorney: 2pm. church, 2 miles D - 01733 222880. 29 Dec: West Per- miles D ry: 10am, cp, for walk around Graftsm Water Reservoir, 9 miles D - 01234 823045. 5303020. 31 1 Jan: Longthorpe: 1.30pm, Fisherman's cp. 4 miles - 01733 264011. 4 Jan: Peterborough: 8am, Key Theatre cp, walking in Manifold Valley, ring near the day for further

cp (to share cars), 6 miles - 01782 512545. Disley: 1pm, cp next to Disley Station Approach, A6, 4-5 miles D - 01625 873689. 28 Dec: Congleton: 10am, library cp. 9 miles - 01606 832236 (e). Great Budworth: 10am and 1.30pm, Bowling Green cp. 5 miles D - 01928 575726, 29 Dec: Congleton: 9.30am, library cp (to share cars), 11 miles - 01270 763612 (e). Culcheth: 10.30am, Pack Horse Inn, Church Lane, 5 & 10 miles D ~ 01925 763512 or 762472. 30 Dec: Cotebrook: 10.30am, Oulton Mill cp, off A49 S.E. of Cotebrook, 10 miles D -01928 575726. Congleton: 11am, library cp (to share cars), 7 miles - 01477 534238. 31 Dec: Tarvin: 9.45am, layby opp. school, 6 miles D - 01244 \$10166. 1 Jan: Congleton: 9.30am, library cp (to share cars), 10

miles - 01543 423071 (e). Corrwall: 27 Dec: Holywell Bay: 10am, NT cp, 9 miles - 01637 875199. The Lizard: 10.30am (for hus to Mullion), The Lizard Green, 8 miles D. - 01326 240193. 28 Dec: Hayle: 11am, swimming pool, 5-6 miles -01736 756510. St Columb Major: 11am, by church hall, 6 miles D - 01637 872008. Polzeath: 1.30pm, new Polzeath cp, Xmas cake walk, 4 miles D -01208 73489. 29 Dec Penryn: 1.45pm, Xmas cake walk, Mabe church (follow signs from village crossroads), 4-5 miles - 01326 372462. 31 Dec: Lelant: 10.30am, church, 4 or 8 miles ~ 01736 756510. 1 Jan: Treverva: 11am, village layby, 10 miles D - 01326 340728. Gorran Churchtown: 12noon, roadside parking,

8 miles- 01637 878707. Cumbria: 28 Dec: Lowick: 10.30am, layby nr Farmer's Arms, A5092, 7 miles D -01229 772217.

Derbyshire: 27 Dec: Rowsley: 10am, old station cp, 6 miles D - 01629 583142 (w). Dale Abbey: 10,30am, Carpenters Arms cp. 5 miles D - 0115 9254066 (e). 28 Dec: Blore: 10am, Blore cp. 10 miles D - 0115 9254066 (e). Belper: 10am, Field Lane cp, 10 miles - 01332 662534, 29 Dec: Morely: 11am, layby on A608, SW of Rose & Crown, 6 miles D-0115 9392554, 30 Dec: Ticknail: 10am, village hall, 8 miles D - 01332 516264. 1 Jan: Oakerthorpe: 10am, Anchor Inn (A610 Ripley towards Ambergate), 6 or 9 miles D - 0115 9254066 (e).

862426. 1 Jan: Exeter: 11am. Matford Park

Warners Farm, 8 miles -01245 609064. Clactonon-Sea: 10.30am, Hol-

info - 01780 470375.

10am, Hylands Park, 10 miles -01245 609064. 1 Jan: Chigwell Row: 10.30am, cp opp. church, 8 miles - 0181 5273938 or 478 0747. Gosfield: 11am, on the road by the side of the lake, 7 miles D -01376 331909. Navestock: 10.30am, opp. the Green Man pub, 4 miles - 01708

Dec: Stebbing:

10.30am. High

Street, 7 miles D-

01206 250585. Writtle:

Gloucestershire; 27 Dec: Cheltenham: 10am, Chase Avenue, 5 miles - 01242 522276, 28 Dec: Churchdown: 10am, parish council offices, Parton Rd. 7 miles - 01452 855909. Coleford: 10am Speculation Picnic Site, Forest of Dean, 4 or 8 miles (4 + 4 figure of 8 route, returning to starting point for lunch - 01594 530928. Painswick: 10am, Stamages Lane cp. 5 miles - 01453 860004. 29 Dec: Chipping Campden: 10am, Chipping Campden comprehensive school cp, 5 miles - 01386 841 791. 1 Jan: Cirencester: 10am, Waterloo cp. 5 miles. Hampshire: 27 Dec: Lyndhurst: 1.30pm, Shatterford co. Beaulieu Rd station, 5 miles - 01703 292010 (e). 29 Dec: Titchfield: 10am, cp behind fire station, o miles D -

Hereford & Worcester: 27 Dec: Abbeydore: 10am, park in road near Abbey. 10 miles - 01432 354098. Bromsgrove: 10am. layby on A448, west of M5 bridge, 5 & 8 miles = 01527 873441 (e). 28 Dec: Holt Fleet: 9.30am, Kings Norton Park, West Hill Rd. 7 miles - 0121 4435792. Kington: 10.30um, Mill St cp. 6 miles - 01,544 267380. Pershore: 10.30am, Old Bridge picnic site, on Evesham Rd out of Pershore, 4 miles D = 01386 554438. Redditch: 9.30am. Abbey Stadium Car Pak, 8-mile figure of eight walk -0121 4714159. Blakedown: 2pm, shoppers cp at jncn of A456 and B4188 (opp. Old House at Home pub), 3 miles D - 01562 700719 (e). 1 Jan: Dodford: 10.30am, Dodford Inn.

6 miles - 0121 4765420. Hertfordshire: 8 Dec: Hitchin: 10.30am. St Mary's square, 10 miles - 01763 242677. 1 Jan: Royston: 9.30am, Heath Sports Centre cp, Baldock Rd, 6 miles D - 01763 242677. Wheathhampstead: 10am, public cp behind The Bull pub, 7 miles -411582 457359. Digswell: 10.30am, Welwyn Nonh Station, 10 miles D - 0181 449 2139.

Isle of Wight: 27 Dec: Newport: Itlam. Carisbrooke Castle cp. 3 & 5 miles D -01983 862479.

Kent: 28 Dec: Adlington: 9.30am. Adlington Railway Station, 8-10 miles - 0171 334 8501. Haves: 10am. station. 8-9 miles. Egerton: 10am or 1pm, fig. of 8. George 1nn, 5 or 10 miles D = 01580 291596, 29 Dec: Toys Hill: 10am, NT cp. 8 miles D -0181 468 7867. 30 Dec: Hadlow: Ham, village square, 6 miles D - 01732 851310 (c), 1 Jan: West Malling: 11am, cp off High St. 4 miles - miles D = 0115 9254060 (e). I Jan; Luwd-

01634.364855. Cudham: 1pm, recreation ground cp, 4-5 miles D ~ 0181 467 4698. Lancashire: 27 Dec: Garstang: 10am,

Community Centre cp. 6 miles D = 01995 604716. Preston: 1.30pm. Haslam Park cp. 5 miles D = 01772 736467. Roddlesworth: 9_30am, Info Centre, 10 miles D = 01772 431053. 28 Dec: Sahden: 9.45am, ep in village centre, 13 miles D - B1706 217577 (d) or 228681 (c). Colne: 10.30am. Ball Grove pienie area, 6-7 miles D ~ 01382 613721. 1 Jan: Belmont: 11am, cp at jncn of A675 and Crookfield Rd, 2 miles north of Belmont, 10 miles, D = 01772 736467, Ormskirk; 1pm, St Anne's Church, Prescot Rd, 5 miles D ~01772 812034 (e).

Lincolnshire: 1 Jan: Lincoln: 10.30am, Stamp Fnd Locks on Witham River, east side of city. 7 miles D - 01522 522534. London: 31 Dec: Chingford: 10,30am, station, 8 miles -0181 527 3938 or 478 0747. Manchester: 27 Dec: Brundhottom: 10am, Lymefield visitor centre, 9 miles - 0161 494 9918 (e). Whaley Bridge: 10.30am, station. 7 miles D = 01063 732706.

Merseyside: 27 Dec: Heswall: 10.30am. Banks Rd cp. Lower Heswall, 8 miles D -0151 648 3070, 29 Dec: Thurstaston: 10.30am, Country Park Centre, 6 miles D -0151 608 9472, Joby I Wirrall: 10am, Anchor Hotel, 11 miles D = 01928 575726. Norfolk: 28 Dec: Hunstanton: 10,30am, Holme Beach ep. 7 miles D - 01553 671829, 1 Jan: King's Lynn: 10am, layby opp. golf club. 4 miles D = 01553 675722. Northamptonshire: 27 Dec: Earls Barton: 9.30am, picnic site, Grendon Rd, 5 miles D -01933 678694, 28 Dec: Oundle: 9.30am 12 miles, 9.45am 10 miles, 10am 5 miles. 1.30pm, series of walks, all starting from Barnwell Country Park, 5 miles D - 01933 460373. 28 Dec: Southwick, nr Oundle: 10am & L30pm, Shuckburgh Arms, 4 miles - 01780 470375 or 01733 892216. Ulan: Bugbrooke: 9.30am or 1.30nm, Bakers Arms, Gayton Road, 6 miles D = 01n04 755786 (c), 3 Jan: Cranford St John: 2pm, village green nr old post office, 4 miles D - 01536 511162. Northumberland: 28 Dec: Morpeth: 9.30am, castle square. 10 miles ~ 01o70 518031, 29 Dec: Elsdon: 10.30am, village

green, 8 miles - 0191 4887693. Nottinghamshire: 28 Dec: Rufford: 10um. Rufford Abbey cp. 5 miles D - 111036 636357. Brinsley: 10,30am, op on A608 south of Brinsley, 8 miles D = 0115 9821022 (e) 31 Dec: West Hallam: 10,30ain, Station Rd layby [A609 west of Ilkeston], 7

ham - 10.30am. Old Norwich Rd, 5 miles D - 01449 north end of Main St, 8 miles D ~ 0115

9623560. Oxfordshire: 27 Dec: Bletchingdon: 10.30am, the shop. 7 miles - 01869 244436. Chilton: 10.30am, cp to west of church, 9 miles - 01235 530174, 28 Dec: Woodstock: 10am, Church Eastone, 6 miles D - 01608 642360, 29 Dec: Quainton: 10am, church, 8 miles - 01869 244624. North End (S.E. of Wailington): 10am, village green, 5-6 miles - 01491 836654, 30 Dec: Freeland: 10am, opp. Oxfordshire Yeoman puh, 9 miles -01993 898289. Ashbury: 10am, Rose & Crown puh cp. 6 nules D - 01367 241384. Ashbury: 2pm, Rose & Crown pub cp. 5 miles D -01367 241384. 31 Dec: Childrey: 10am, church, 8 miles D-01235 751280. 1 Jan: Ipsden, nr Wallingford: 10am, Homer Farm (park in house drive), lpsden, nr Wallingford, 5 miles D = 01491 574065. Middleton Chency: 10am, public library, 9 miles D. Longworth: 1.45pm, village centre, 4 miles D = 01367 710650.

Shropshire: 27 Dec: Church Stretton: 10.30am. cp on Easthope Rd, 8 miles - 01743 244922 (c). 28 Dec. Knowbury: 10.30am, village hall, 6 miles D = 01584 877375. I Jan: Ellesmere: 10am. Moors ep on A495/528 at southern end of Merc. b miles - 01691 623026, 1 Jan: Worfield: 10,30am, The Wheel pub, 5 miles D - 01902 843176.

Somerset (inc Bath & N.E.Somerset): 27 Dec: West Lydford: 10.30am, Parish church, 5 miles D = 01458 447421. 28 Dec: Luxborough: 10.15am, village hall cp, 9 miles D - 01823 324185. Wells: 10.30am, Moat Bishops Palace, 7-8 miles D - 01749 670019, 30 Dec. Bishop's Lydeard: 2pm, Lydeard Hill cp. 4 miles D - 01823 442509. 31 Dec: Wells: 1.30pm, Moai Bishops Palace, 5 miles D = 01749 670019, Norton Fitzwarren: 2pm, Hillfort ep (Blackdown View), 4 miles D = 01823 324185, 1 Jan: Clevedon: 10am, Salthouse Fields ep. 5 miles D - 01275 871236. Midsomer Norton: 10.30am, Safeway cp. 5 miles D - 01761 43r398. Bath; 2pm, outside RSPCA centre. The Avenue off Convocation Avenue, Claverion Down. 4 miles D - 01225 826279 (d) or 01225 337240 (c).

Staffordshire: 27 Dec: Newborough: 10am,

4456, 30 Dec: Farnborough: 10am, Butch-Centre, 4 miles D = 01543 274805. 28 Dec: er's Arms, 6 miles ~ 01926 640815. 31 Dec: Wolverhampton: 8.30am, West Park out-Banbury: 10am, Edgehill, Castle Inn. 6 miles D - 01608 642360. 1 Jan: Stratford-onshare cars, 13 miles inc. 2000 foot Avon: 10am, Gower Memorial, 8 miles -01789 298061. Wiltshire: 28 Dec: Horningsham: 10am, telephone kiosk nr Bath Arms, 8 miles -

Bull's Head Yard cp, 8 miles - 0121 779

parish church, 4 miles D = 01283 565201. Warwickshire: 28 Dec: Alcester: 10,15am.

Cannock: 10.30am, Marquis Drive Visitors

er rim (opp. Summerfield Rd), to

climb - 01902 758947. Sut-

ion Coldfield: 9am,

South Parade cp. 9

miles - 0121 3131563.

Stourbridge: 10am.

Stourbridge Junc-

tion railway station,

5 miles D - 01384

395692 (e). Lich-

field: 10.30am, Fri-

ary long stay coach

and lorry park, 6

miles - 01543

Hanchurch Hills

picnic site, 7 miles

- 01782 512851. 1

Jan: Lichfield:

10.30am, Friary

long stay coach and

lorry park, 6 miles

- 01543 258439. 3

Jan: Wolverhamp-

Broad St Basin cp

(on ring road), 12

miles - 01902

847041 (e). 4

10.30am,

Spinning

Lane cp. 7

383577.

School

Barham:

10.30am, pienic

site, Pesthouse Lane.

721121 (e). Aldeburgh: 10.30am, Slaugdon

cp, south Aldeburgh, 5 miles D - 01728

648481. Sudhury: 10,30am, Kingfisher

swimming pool cp. 5 miles D - 01787

210532, 1 Jan: Bury St Edmunds: 10.30am.

Nowton Park cp. 5 miles D -01284 768729.

Surrey: 27 Dec: Farabam: 10.15am, old road

just north of 6 Bells roundabout on left of

A287, 5 miles D-01252 722081 (e). 28 Dec:

Friday Street, nr Abinger: 10am, cp, 9 miles

-01483 417528. Guildford: 11am. Newlands

Corner, A25, 8 miles - 01483 722018.

Brookwood: 10am & 1.15pm, station cp, both

o miles D - 01483 768548, 30 Dec; Chipstead:

10.30am, Holly Lane cp (B2219), nr Outwood

Lane. 4 miles D - 01372 720816. Woking:

10.30am, Pyrford Common cp (off Old Wok-

ing Rd), 8 miles D = 01483 770484. 31 Dec.

Widey: 10am, off Church Lane (200 yds from

ing Rd (B2032), 4 miles D = 01737 833155.

1 Jan: Shalford: 10.15am or 1.45pm, fig. of

8, the Parrot pub I park in indust. est. cp), 5

Sussex (East): 28 Dec: Holtye: 10am, lay-

by on south side of A264, just east of White

Horse 1nn, 5 miles D- 01892 536715.

Crowborough: 1.30pm, Ghylls Lap cp.

Ashdown Forest, 5 miles D - 01892 654850.

1 Jan: Alfriston: 10.15am, Alfriston Long

Term Car Park (fee payable), 8 miles -

01323 730891. Battle: 10.30am, railway sta-

Sussex (West): 27 Dec: Horsham: 9.45am,

Southwater Country Park visitor centre, 5

miles D - 01403 263346. 28 Dec: Crawley:

9.15am, railway station (to share cars),

phone by 22/12 if require pub lunch, 8 miles

- 01293 533242 (e). 31 Dec: Crawley: 9am,

railway station or 9.45am, Duncton recre-

ation ground, 8 miles - 01293 522715 (e).

Tyne & Wear (inc Gateshead & Sun-

derland): 28 Dec: Newcastle-upon-Tyne:

9.30am, Prudhoe Place coach stop, (pre-

paid coach trip to Elsdon; £4 adults, £2 un-

der 14s), various linear walks between 10-14

mīles - 0191 252 1949. 1 Jan: Sunniside:

1pm, Potters Wheel, 4 miles - 0191

tion, 5 miles D - 01424 773998 (e).

miles D = 01252 657741 (c).

Jan:

worth:

9.30am.

Tam-

671962

Hanchurch:

10.45am,

ton:

01225 753897. 29 Dec: Salisbury: 10am, NT cp south of Dinton church, 6 miles D = 01722 330214. 1 Jan: Salisbury: 9.30am, Sali Lanc cp, 11 miles - 01722 324949. Box: 10am, Sciwyn Hall cp. 9 miles - 01225 761200.

Worcestershire: 29 Dec: Powick: 10.30am. Old Road, off A44, Bastonford, 5 miles -01886 832064. 31 Dec: Castlemorton: 9.30am, Plume of Feathers, Castlemorton, 5 miles - 01684 560989.

Yorkshire (East Riding, Kingston Upon Hull & York): I Jan: Hedon: 10am. market place, 8 miles D - 01904 708479 (c). Yorkshire (North): 28 Dec: Burniston: 10am, old railway track, coastal road, 12 miles - 01723 863975. Chop Gate: 10am. Clay Bank cp. 11 miles D - 01653 692478 (e). Cawood: 10am, cp next to hridge, 7 miles D - 01937 833574. Leyburn: 10am, Nun's Close cp. or 10.30am, Leyburn Market Place, 6 miles D -01748 824218, 31 Dec: Ripon: 10.30am. Fountains Abbey visitor centre, 11 miles D - 01904 791187 (e). 1 Jan: Summerhridge, nr Harrogate: 10.15am, Brimham Rocks main cp. 8 miles D = 01943 873197 (e).

Yorkshire (South): 27 Dec: Sheffield: 9am, station tram stop. 8 miles D - 0114 238 9173. 28 Dec: Sheffield: 9.15am, Pond St Bus No 274 to Fairholmes, 8 miles D - 0114 2389173. 29 Dec: Sheffield: 9,27am, bus to Fox House, White Edle, 8 miles D - 0114 2389173. 30 Dec: Sheffield: 9am, Commercial Street for tram to Malin Bridle. 8 miles D-0114 2389173.

Yorkshire (West): 28 Dec: Gargrave: 10am, cp, 11 miles - 0113 2403889. Harrogate: 10am, Gateway, Valley Gardens, 9 miles - 01423 872268. Ilkley: 11am, station. 5-6 miles D-01943 609321, 29 Dec: Horsforth: 2pm, station, 5-6 miles D - 0113 2286274. 30 Dec: Menston: 1 lam, station, 5-6 miles D-01943 873123. 31 Dec; Guisley; 10.30am, station, 6-8 miles D-01943 863786.

WALES

Carmarthenshire: 28 Dec: Trap: 10.30am, Cennen Arms cp. 4 miles D - 01558 822960. I Jan: L.Landybie: 10.30am, Red Lion cp, 4 miles D -01550 777623. Llansaint: 11am, cp off Kings Arms, 5 miles D-01554 759280. Corwy: 27 Dec: Abergele: 1.30pm, opp. police station on A547, 4 miles - 01745 824611. Gwent/Torfaen: 30 Dec: Pontypool: 10am. leisure centre cp. 8 miles D - 01495 772109. Gwynedd: 28 Dec: Llandanwg: 10.30am, cp on turning off A496, over 1ml south of Harlech, 5 miles -01341 440238, Llanberis: 11am, Oriel cp, 6 miles D. Chwilog: 11am, Lon Goed, 5-8 miles D = 01766 522238. Llanberis: 11am, cp. 6 miles - 01286 870441. Merthyr Tydfil: 1 Jan: Ponsticill: 11am. The Red Cow pub, 5 miles D - 01443 836257. Monmouthshire: 1 Jan: Chepstow: 10am, Castle cp, 6 miles - 01594 530928.

Powys: 27 Dec; Llangattock: 10am, cp opp. church, 9 miles D - 01495 773495 (e). Llangammarch Wells: 10am, Aberceiros Inn, 6 miles - 01591 620295, 28 Dec: Knighton: 10.15am, Crossways (on A488 on to B3456), 13 miles inc. 2,000ft climb -01902 758947. 30 Dec: Llanbrynmair: 10am, cp opp. Wynnstay Arms Hotel, 8 miles - 01650 521544.

Rhondda Cynon Taff: 28 Dec: Llantrisant: 10am, leisure centre cp (to share cars), 6 miles - 01443 740507. 30 Dec: Aherdare: 10am, Dare Valley Country Park centre cp. 7 miles - 01443 223470. 1 Jan: Llantrisant: 11am, leisure centre ep (to share cars), 8 miles - 01222 890621.

Swansea: 1 Jan: Gower: 10am, A4118 Rose Cottage, west of Penmaen, visiting Cefn Bryn, Mill Wood, Penrice Hse & Castle. Nicholaston Wood & Burrows, 7 miles D (no extending leads) - 01792 367188. Wrexham: 28 Dec: Erdigg: 10am. Yale Hostel cp, 4-5 miles D - 01978 755406, 29 Dec: Glyn Cciriog: 10.30am. Pont-y-Meihion, river bridge, 2mls SW of Glyn Ceiriog. 5 miles - 01691 718771.

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen: 4 Jan: Castlegate: 11am, Mercat Cross, 5 miles.

A283), 5-6 miles D = 01428 682842, Walton on the Hill: 10,30am, Walton Heath cp., Dork-Ayrshire (south): 28 Dec: Troon: 9am, Fullerton Woods cp. 7 miles - 01563 527996 (d). Straiton: 9am, cp. 8 miles -01294 822158. Irvine: 9am, Volunteer Rooms, 8 miles ~ 01294 822158.

Dumbartonshire: 27 Dec: Dumbarton: 10am, Overtoun House, 7 miles - 0141 4290893 je).

East Lothian: 28 Dec: Dalkeith: 9.30am, indoor bowling club cp. 8 miles - 0131 6639335 (e). Whitecraig: 10am, Crossgate Hall co. 7 miles – 01506 635901.

Edinburgh: 2 Jan: Riccarton: 10.45am, Riccarton Arms cp, short walk - 0131

Fife: 27 Dec: Kingsbarus: 1.30pm. village square, 4 miles D = 01334 657573, 28 Dec: Wormit: 10am, end of public road at Wormit Bay, 6 miles D - 01382 623052 (e). Leslie: 10.30am. Holl Reservoir cp off A911 bet. Leslic and Auchmuirbridge, 8 miles -01592873297. Charlestown: 10.30am, Harbour cp, Limekilns, 3 miles - 01383 723560. Kettlebridge: 11am, Main Street (garage end), 5 miles - 01592 750332.

Stirlingshire: 30 Dec: Stirling: 1 lam, Linden Avenuc cp. 5 miles - 01786 472323. West Lothian: 31 Dec: Linlithgow: 9am. Linlithgow Cross (hus stance) for bus trip to Uphall, 12 miles - 01506 845234 (c).

Sweatbands, chronographs and Bradford City hold-alls – the Christmas gifts from hell



ROWBOTTOM

ON THE PRESENTS THAT FAIL TO FIT THE BILL What is it about those revolv-

ing doors in Tesco? You approach them with your goods-heavy trolley and ty device. you - just - miss the opportunity to get into one of the turn-

ing compartments. All attempts to alter this phenomenon are futile. You might as Clock and expect it to tell you the time without mentioning the sponsor first.

"The time - sponsored by Accurist." Why must they always interrupt? And how dare anyone say they are sponsoring Time? What next? Space?

But anyway, there you are, awaiting your moment, and it arrives, and with a shove of your hip you manoeuvre yourself into the merry-go-round and... stop... Some kid, run-

ning into the store ahead of Mummy, is pushing on the door and activating the safe-

So, with pigeon steps, you complete your semi-revolution and arrive at the fair field of cars, thinking to yourself things like this: "£123.27p. well ring up the Speaking How did I spend that? Christmas, though - always expensive. But £123.27p...

And things like this: "Where is the car?" And things like this: "Pas-

ta sauce...pasta sauce...didn't get it. And bread!" Thinking all these things

this week as I stood outside the booming superstore where I spend half my life and more than half my money, I heard a little voice calling to me: "Slow down! Pull over!

was an accompanying sound of

a siren. My advice, as I swiftly observed, was coming from a car plugged into the store's out-

And I thought to myself: "This little electronic fellow has a point. We could all benefit from a few moments of quiet contemplation at this husy

So I took a couple of minutes out to reflect on the deerer meaning of the annual mass madness that is Christmas. Nope. No good.

This time of year always reminds me of the New Yorker cartoon where a young couple are showing their friends a an ace.

As if to underline the ur- wall-tull of empty new blockplaining: "Harry and I are thinking of getting into read-

Christmas resolutions arrive 20p-per-ride children's police hefore those of New Year; but they go by the board just as easily. The only difference is that Christmas resolutions are imposed on you - hy gifts.

Sumewhere in our house perhaps in the children's dressing-up hasket - are a set of weathands for the wrist and forchead, designed to keep active sports enthusiasts in the game when the going gets hot.

Two sets to one up and serving for the match". Sweep away that head of perspiration trickting down your nose before hammering the ball away for

Gut a grudge match down gency of the message, there shelves and the woman is ex- at the squash cluh? Don't let sweat put you off at that cru-

cial moment. But the thing is, I have never used any of them. Not even once.

The way I look at it is this - you put them on, you need to sweat. I don't like the feel of that obligation.

Another Christmas brought me the hopeful gift of a stopwatch. I was put on guard immediately by the official description of the item --Water-resistant LCD Chrono-

Why would I need something water-resistant? Was I expected to stand in rain at some lage? Or venture underwater?

mation confirmed my darken-

ing fears. "With Nine Lap-Time

Memories. Er...not me. And I wasn't anticipating a career as a rain-

swept coach either. But the mute challenge of a more recent gift made that chronograph seem no more than a gentle hint.

This was a back-pack water container with a pipe which jutted towards the wearer's face, enabling refreshment to be accessed without the need for halting or breaking stride.

I don't call that a gift. I call that a demand.

It wanted, it required an exercise freak, a person who regularly ran long distances and was so serious about it all that they couldn't spare even The accompanying infor- a minute to stop for refreshWhat next? A mobile

larder? But at least one is able to set such items aside with a shudder, compose oneself, and press on with the slacker

If only such an option had been open to me as a 12-yearold West Ham United fanatic, when Christmas Day brought the gift of a much-needed sports hold-all from a distant

It was a football bag. That was good. It was a Bradford City football bag. That was not

I had to use it for the entire first year. Which was more than enough time for me to assimilate the important lifelesson: beware of relatives bearing sporting gifts.

Surfing's bad boy comes of age in Pipe's mean swells

The heaviest wave ridden by the heaviest guy. The result of the Pipeline Masters, the final event on the ASP (Association of Surfing Professionals) world tour, confirmed what is received wisdom on the Hawaiian North Shore: that Johnny Boy Gomes is the undisputed head honcho. Kelly Slater from Florida may have won the world championship for the fifth time, but Gomes, 31, showed that experience and local knowledge are paramount at Pipeline.

Over three days, all non-Hawaiians, including the entire ASP top 44, were progressively eliminated. There were a lot of good waves, but there were even more bad waves mean close-outs set to slam the cialist and big-wave bruiser. insufficiently selective surfer won the Masters back in 1982. The writing was on the wall for a big set and Ho opted to go right into Backdoor image – and Gomes went left. stalled and pulled up into the tube and finally flew out with the spit, all grace under pres- sessive relationship with vanished into the labyrinth

but could not find his way out

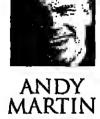
"This is one of the hest waves in the world," said Gomes after his victory, "and now I've proved - not just to myself but to the world - that I'm one of the best tube riders." He had something to prove: Johnny Boy, the popular local hero, is something of an antihero in the world at large. He refuses to have any truck with the pro tour, heaping scorn on or running into Johnny Boy on the lesser waves surfed else- a had day. He was famously where by the ASP guys, and earning sponsorship on account of being a Pipeline spe-



NEWS FROM THE NORTH SHORE

"He is not the stereotypical into the reef. The final, on 6ft 6ft blue-eyed, blond-haired to 8ft waves, was fought out be- surfer," said Michael Willis. tween two unseeded trialists, who was one of his early Gomes and another veteran, shapers and spousors. "He had Michael Ho, aged 40, who last to struggle against a lot of prejudice." Born on the west side of the island, in Makaha, Ho from the moment the two with its strong ethnic surfing took off on successive waves of tradition, stocky, swarthy, a Hawaiian Mike Tyson, Johnny Boy huitt his reputation in Pipeline's right-handed mirror equal parts on fearless and aggressive wave riding and casu-While Gomes took the drop, al random violence in and out of the water.

Gomes developed a pos-



Pipeline. He didn't take too well to anyone else stealing "his" wave. "Dropping in" - the cardinal surfing sin of hitching a ride on a wave already occupied - will be punished severely. And anything else perceived as remotely similar. If he didn't paddle over and grab your board and inflict a nasty wipeout on the spot, he would wait until you hit the beach and then jump on you there. Soon it became a loss-up as to which was worse: being nailed to the reef moody, a Jekyll and Hyde by turns charming and monstrous.

young Australian female pro a few years back who had been out at Pipe and was looking the worse for it with cuts and bruises around her face. I sympathised with the war wounds I imagined she had received on the notoriously vicious reef. "These aren't reef injuries." she replied. "These are all down to Johnny Boy." He was even-

handed and would never dis-

criminate on account of age or

Stories of Johnny Boy getting his come-uppance by picking on an incompetent surfer I remember running into a who also happens to be an Is-

legion and doubtless apocryphal, But I can confirm that I, too, have once accidentally dropped in on Johany Boy.

In those days I had no idea even who Johnny Boy was. When I pulled into a driveway in Pukea Road I was expecting to find a couple of girls called Kristin and Sahine. Instead of that, this unshaven hombre comes out of the house and eral times over: "Move your

growls at me, not once but sev- a hip beachwear company. The fucking car out of my drive."

proceeds to take him apart are some kind of problem. hut decide to let it pass. Seasoned commentators derided this momentary imputse of mine. "He would have dismembered you!" they laughed. Fate had introduced me to Johnny Boy

JBG as he is popularly known (initials bearing a similar proximity to GBH) is the main sponsored surfer of Da Hui. Da Hui is more than just "Hui O He'enalu" is the name of the Hawaiian wave riding In all my youthful naiveté. club with an ethnic undercur- mafin."

raeli paratrooper and who then I toy with asking him if he has tent also known as the "Black Shorts", with unintended echoes of PG Wodehouse's comic pseudo-fascisi organisation. But "Hui" roughly translates as "gang" and, in the past, they have aroused contradictory emotions on the North Shore. One Hawaiian inumalist condemned the "Water Patrol Services they provide at ASP contests as "a classic racket: who are they providing protection from? Only themselves, that's who," Another local reforted: "They may be the mafia, but at least they're our

with the Hawaiian sovereignassert the entitlement of indigenous surfers to their hreaks. With Captain Cook and American haoles (white guys) and annexation on the one hand, the Hui, on the othgreat tradition of the waterman, once identified with Duke Kahanamoku, the Leonardo Da Vinei of the commercial offshoot and in an sublime waves.

There is a symbolic link ironic twist that betokens a new-found respectability, its ty movement, as the Hui re- president is now applying for membership of the ASP steering committee.

Meanwhile, if Johnny Boy and Da Hui are reformed characters, the Hawaiian waters remain unforgiving. Two surfers er, have come to represent the have died in the last couple of Hawaiian heritage and the days, on relatively small waves, one off the Wall, another at Rocky Point. But the talk is of the big swell that is forecast to hit at Christmas and fill all the Renaissance of surfing in the North Shore stockings - hut 20th century. Da Hui is a above all Waimea Bay - with



Hawaiian beachgoers have a close-up view of the stupendous surf at Waimea Bay on Oahu's North Shore

Among the good, the bad and the ugly Naseem Hamed takes the golden, full fruit biscuit As 1997's referee looks at his time he wanted, and then them, then dresses them up as played, and plot lines and sit- trenches dressed in head-to- hate football." she says at ent of Naseem Hamed to



CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV the pitch because they think placement system. It was scant its all over, there's just time to consolation that by that time hand out a few small-screen. I was probably the only mugbrickhats and houquets (as is still watching as the prothe way with this column they gramme sold, at a knock down - but why make a had joke Harchester United's manager. are mostly brickhats).

Worst new series: In January. Channel 4 foisted Under the ly, and Tim Clark, an alleged to admit I've never watched it all through the night, but then I doubt anyone else has. The programme hasn't wanted for potentially interesting guests, that desultory "what shall we

talk about now?" feeling.

price, whatever soul it possessed.

Still, there was worse (I'd like to insert a few choice Moon on us, presented by words about Channel 5 at curlish enough to put On Side magazine editor Danny Kel- this point, but I'm still not retuned - Richard Ingrams, who comedian who really should used to review TV for The ly possessing a set, is my inspiration here).

Sky One's Eat My Sport Enders and Statto from Fanhut every discussion has had tasy Foothall League is a perfect demonstration of how the medium takes subjects of The nadir came when Greg apparently endless fascina-

in Statto's very unsuitability a sort of Motson on Mogadon Atkinson was a revelation as worse by giving him his own At 58, he's probably a hit old

Best new series: Not quite him doing the job, as he would ries short list. I'm not quite North. charitable enough to considnot this palate.

Chappell was given all the tion, sucks all the life out of gaging characters all well

watch and some people invade more, to plug his total hair re- cheap screen sellers. With unations that were rooted in re- toe dayglo orange and danc- one point, in superb contrast Skinner and Baddiel, the bu- ality and, although he didn't ing the jig. He makes for such to the twitterings of the othmour was intended to reside hang around for more than great TV, though, the film the first few weeks, Ron to be considering second ca-

say, in something like Prime (BBC1) on the worst new se- Suspect or Our Friends in the stick to soft drinks ads. I have Speciator despite not actual- er it for best new series. It Best documentary: There needs more substance, less were several contenders, sycophantic froth, More sport. ITV's "There's Only One Barless showbiz. John Inverdale ry Fry", for example, followed

reurs, but I could easily see

fronted by Lofty of East- may be flavour of the year, but the eponymous hero, who I always imagined selling sec-The hest new series was ond-hand cars in Alhert er pondered a move to Watalso the most pleasant sur- Square, as he took over Pe- ford, Ann looked after their prise. Sky One's foothall soap terborough and came to re-Dream Team had a cast of en- alise that running a club on the and discoursed eloquently on

should have been ever belier than it was,

Best of all was "Frothallers Wives" (Channel 4). On one the wife of Spurs goalkeeper mony, and my favourite; Ian, with her naff cable show. "Hiya!" the most unforgiving sequence featuring her failing (1 picture a trophy stitched toto remember her name for a trailet.

Walker came across as venal, vapid and vacuous. At the other end of the spectrum. where real life exists, was Ann Lee, wife of Jason, As the Nottingham Forest strikkids and semi-detached home All Over and A Question of too good for him. Should she breadline is living in the her virtual widowhood. I

er two wives. "I think netball ball." She gets the golden thumbs up from me.

And so to the final category hand there was Suzy Walker. in my personal awards cere-

> Dick head of the year: the appropriate hodyparts

then east in fool's gold). There used to be only one Euhank has fought manfully pot department. this year to keep his title, especially with his recent ap-

make an arse of himself. On Christmas night "Start-

ing Blocks" (ITV) had footage should be on telly, not font- of the young Hamed, wearing whal appeared to be an old cushion cover, landing flat on his behind as he tried to vault the ropes. This should be shown everytime he lights, as an antidote to his 20-minute laser disco entrances. He's a fine boxer (though not that gether by Damien Hirst from fine, as Kevin Kelley underlined recently). But as his performance on "Sports Review of the Year" (BBCI) contender for this but he has demonstrated so hilariously. finally been usurped. Chris he is without equal in the toss-

They should get Ann Lee to manage him. She'd sort him pearances on They Think Its out. In fact, strike that, She's Sport. But he has been ever get sick of Jason, though, eclipsed by the houndless tal- she knows where to find me.





wn and white brigade in the Blue Cross Indoor Polo competition. The event featured eight players from seven different Pony Club branches. Blue Cross, an animal welfare organisation, was the official show charity

Jumping with joy at equine extravaganza

Championships which ended their five-day run on Monday, can forget about the publicity stunts dreamt up by his late father, Ravmond. These included sending Ted Edgar, in full safari kit, down Kensington High Street on an elephant in order to publicise one of the early shows. The crowds now flock to this

event, relishing the snappy programme of top-class jumping, spirited displays and fun competitions. This year's 26th running

near capacity audience over the 10 performances.

notably the Pedigree Chum Dog Agility and the Osborne Refrigerators Shetland Pony

Some of the entertainments going faster than you thought

their short legs could carry them. Other displays included the Metropolitan Mounted Police

dogs breathlessly eager to please their handlers and Shetlands with his friends who happen to

£230,000, the show jumping attracted most of the world's top

Simon Brooks-Ward, director of the championships broke all the Olympia Show Jumping previous records, attracting a favourites, with amazingly agile and the latest French showman, applause whenever one of the th his friends who happen to horses.

With a prize fund worth 230,000, the show jumping at-

ing rider of the show.

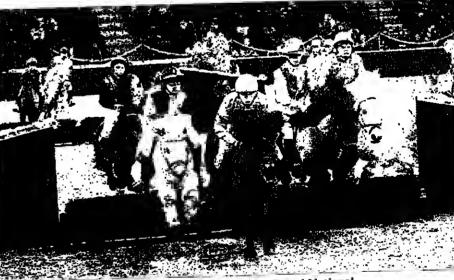
Beerbaum's two children, aged 13 and 6, were at Olympia for the first time. Like other youngsters they loved the show, even before they had the thrill of cheering their father home to victory.

- Genevieve Murphy





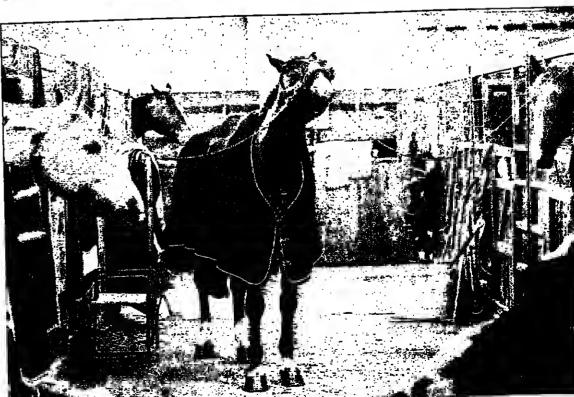






from hell





12.50 Sparkling Cone 1.20 Rainwatch 1.55 Indian Tracker

GOING: Heavy.

GOING: Heavy.

Left-hand, undutating course with run-in of 240yds.
Course is on A466. Chepstow station (Cardiff - Gloucester kne) Im. ADMISSION: Club \$20; Tatlersalls & C. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 42 winners from 180 rumners gives it success ratio of 23%; P Hobbis 20 from 78 (263%); N Twiston-Davies 19 from 109 (174%); P Nicholis 19 from 75 (24%)

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 29 wms from 108 rides (269%); R Dumwoody 24 from 34 (194%); D Bridgwater 19 from 79 (225%); W Marston 9 from 61 (148%).

FAVOURITES: 151 wirs in 375 races (403%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Landed Gantry (visored) (230).

12.20 CALOR GAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,487 4F-611 CHAMPLEVE (FR) (39) (D.A.Johnson) M Pipe 4 11 12

COOLTEEN HERO (23) (D) IJ P M & JW Cook R Mre 7 10 10

Cool. squarement steems

Cool. squarement White, royal bite seams, hooped cap

9 declared =

Minerum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Benjamin Lancaster Set 10b

BETTING: 6-4 Spending Cone, 5-1 Well Timed, 11-2 With Impunity, 8-1 Cooffeen Hero, Early Drinker,

9-1 Indian Arrow, 11-1 Onswell Lad, 20-1 Deriver Bay, 25-1 Benjamin Lancaster

FORM GUIDE

SPARKLING CONE was having his first run over tences, and his first outing in to months, when beating a good field of novices in some style at Towcester only nine days ago. While the grey may seem up against it laking on experienced handicappers so early in his new carear, he may never be so well handicapped again and dropping down in datance shouldn't be a problem in the condribns. Orswell Lad is brought back in trip after falling to get home over an extended times and a quarter males at Newton Abbot last time. The eight-year-old is at home on this ground and his amatteur taking 7th off puts him in with quite a shout. Well Timed seems sured by anything between two and three miles and the ground helped him when he got up to beat Thursday Night over the minimum at Newton Abbot 72 days ego. A 5th penalty leaves him that much worse in with fourth-pisced in-dian Arrow, and although Martin Pipes runner can do a fot better, he was 18 lengthis behind and Well Timed is the bigger danger. With Impunity appreciated easer ground when making a winning comeback at Aintree last month. He is out to make amends for blundering and unseating his noter when taxourie to follow up at Chalitarham but has possibly a little bit too much on his plate this time. Daniver Bay has no easy task under top weight on his first run since April.

HYPERION

Shirth-hand course, Practically flat, Run-in of 200yd.

Fight-hand course, Practically flat, Run-in of 200yd.

Course is on A308 at Sunbury, (Bus link from Richmond Underground station.) AD-MISSION: Club £16, Juniors (18 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand £12; Silver Ring £5, Accompanied children under-16 free. CAR PARK; Members £5 (Imited and must be pre-booked); remainder, free.

pre-booked); remainder, free.

• LEADING TRAINERS; D Nicholson — 19 winners from 69 runners gives a success re-

12.40 PERTEMPS CALEDONIAN NOVICE HUROLE (CLASS B) 57,000 added 3YO 2m Penalty Value £5,289

~ 13 системо — Virtuoso's first preference is the 1.20 of Chepstone.
BETTING: 5-4 Read Edition, 5-1 Mejoety, 11-2 Fatalliste, 6-1 Reporting De Cortsy, 12-1 Dency, Sharbadarid, 14-1 Katinian, 18-1 Torn Silk, 20-1 others

1.10 PERTEMPS EXECUTIVE NETWORK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 edded 2m 4f 110yds

-S declared -

MAJESTY (22) (The Sporting Divots) S Dow 11 0 ...

to of 275%; K Balley 12 from 52 (231%); R Alner 11 from 37 (29.7%); N Henders tion 72 (ES%).

◆ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire 25 wins from 95 rides gives a success ratio of 26.3%;

M A Fitzgerald 18 from 103 (17.5%); N Williamson 16 from 73 (21.9%); G Bradley 6 from

2.20 Sanmartino 2.55 Redeemyourself 3.25 Three Farthings

KEMPTON

1.45 Hurricane Lamp GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

54 (111%).

• FAVOURITES: 117 wins in 288 races (406%).

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.40 Real Estate

1.10 KADI (nap)

1.20 FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE (GRADE 1) (CLASS BBC2 A) \$25,000 3YO 2m 110yds Pen Value \$15,394 34 BORAZON (15) (M Archer & Wass J Streethurst) N Twiston Davies 11 0

The bound of the property of the second of the property of the Marcon, light blue sleeves, light blue cap, marcon diamond 0 SHADEO F611 & T Weyl P Rodord 11 0 Light blue, red stars, artiped sleeves and cap 411 VIRTUOSO (12) (D) (Mrs M Devins) C Mann 11 0

Dark green and light green districts, quartered can 0 FOLEYS QUEST (12) (Erne Houghton) J S Moore 10 9...... Marroon and whate stripes, districts on sierves

match, 4-1 Killbride Lad, Sad Mad Rad, 11-2 Virtuoso, 10-1 Borazon, 50-1 dth

FORM GUIDE

The latest of RAINWATCH's three was on the Flat this year came on heavy ground at Haydock in October and it was nding soft when he made a warning start over hundles at Newbury last month. If was an impressive performance, too, his one bad jump coming at the last and allowing Kulbride Lad to close the gap to so lengths. Borazon was talengths back in third. The placed horses have more than upheld the form since, his bid lead to whining easily on soft ground at Haydock, while Borazon was fourth at Chetrorham in one of the hortest juvenile races of the season. Both are readily held, however, as Painwettch had it wrapped up a long before the last at Newbory. Said Mad Bad is unbesten in two starts, winning easily at Market Rasen and then all out to hold Gry Hall in a belier race at Newcaste. This is a stronger race again and there must also be a doubt about him handling ground this testing. Virtuose is also taking a step up the ladder after low-key wins at Uttoseter and Warvick.

1.55 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL (HANDICAP CHASE) (GRADE 1) (CLASS A) £45,000 added 3m 5f 110yds Penaity Value £30,846 3m 5f 110yds Penaity Value 230,846

1P21-F BELMONT KING (28) (C) (Mrs. Size Bornd Pixtonis 9:20 Pixtonis 9:20 Pixtonis braces, histories shaded diserves, pixtonis 9:20 Pixtonis Pixton

Black, white triple diamond, diabolo on sleeves, whit nP-2t GIVENTIME (21) (C) (BF) (L G Kimber) A Turnell 9 102 . . 11P-94 GWENTIME (21) (C) (SP) it. G Kimber) A Turnel 9 10 2
Royal blue, grey cross-belts, grey steeves, royal blue armiets, black cap
400-US (KILLESHUN (7) (# Manners H Manners II 10 1
S Curran
Dark blue, red cap, green spots
131 S CARBEOU GOLD (USA) (14) (Mrs S C Nesson I Bailey 8 10 1
Red, write seams, red sleeves, stroved cap
4008-P DAKYNS BOY (35) (C) (Alan Parier) N Twiston-Davies 12 10 0
Telifon, write epaulatis, yellow sleeves, block armiets, white cap
05-121 DOM SAMOURAI (FR) (21) (C) (5 Kilpatrick) M Ppc 6 10 0 Mea. . . . J A McCarthy B
Entend carent sealer broaders sleeves and can. L Hervey

Brown and white (quartered), brown sleeves, white cap
– 15 declared – Minimum: 10st. True weights: Dalync Boy Set 9tb, Dom Samourst 9ct 9tb, Foodbroker Star 9ct 1tb
BETTRIG: 9-2 Cyborgo, 11-2 Indian Tractect 6-1 Cariboo Gold, 15-2 Bella Life, 9-1 Banjo, Samles,
10-1 Belanorit King, 11-1 Dom Samural, 12-1 Giventime, 25-1 Earth Summit, Evangelica, Greenhil
Tare Away, 28-1 Kiflenhin, 50-1 others
FORM GUIDE

Enteroid green, scarlet hooped sleeves and cap 88-F53 FOODBROKER STAR (21) (Food Brokers Ltd) J Gifford 7 10 0

This race, abandoned for the last two years, had been farmed by Marbn Pipe and in the last elegities and early nineties by Marbn Pipe and he is mob-handed today with Cyborgo, Indian Tiracker, Dom Samoural and Evengelica Cyborgo, Tony McCoy's mount, has been favourite since the artie-post books opened and deservedly so. The seven-year-lock, a mart staying hardler, has been beaten only once in five attempts over tences, and that was in the Gold Cup on ground too fast. Bottomiess ground like locky's brings out the best in him. Indian Tracker has had barely a handful of outrigs over tences and returned with a cracking run against yesterday's King George winner See More Busnels, here over three miles earlier in the month, Banjo (same weights) was eight lengths back in third. Earth Summitt tailed off in lifth and Greenhal Tare Away pulled up. The latter

should come on for the run but all seem held and Inden Tracker might be the better elemance to Cyborgo at the weights. The Greenhi Tare Away yard also saddles two live wers in Bells Life and Samlee. Bells Life has come into the picture with his necent third behind. Sender El Betrutu at Chellenham, but the burning question is whether this course specialist stays. There are no such womers about Samlee who has won his last two yet specialist stays. There are no such womers about Samlee who has won his last two yet still mean jumping. Sunleer might have won the Scottish National and he's cleaned up With clean jumping. Sunleer might have won the Scottish National and he's cleaned up this act since then The last time this race was won if went to Kim Bailey's Master Cash in test are since then The last time this race was won if went to Kim Bailey's Master Cash in test are since Cash time that he has a progressive horse with not that much mileage on the clock who likes the ground and with very little weight on his back. He'll come on the clock who likes the ground and with very little weight on his back. He'll come on the clock who likes the ground and with very little weight on his back. He'll come on the clock who likes the ground and with very little weight on his back. He'll come on the clock who likes the ground and with very little weight on his back. He'll come on the form the stay the little Green with the foundint stay the little Green the stay of the stay

2.30 JULIAN WILSON FAREWELL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,579

650-12 OR LEGAT (62) (BF) (Peter Emery) P Hobbs 6 11 8 Red. where sport on allowers and cap 35625 LANDED GENTRY (21)(D BF) IX W But & Son) J ("Shea & 1) 2 Michael Brennan (3)

White and stope must blue sleaves and write simped cap
on:45 STRONG PALADIN (28) (D) IMIS A Brodei J Gifton 6 in 2 helion, orange and jellow hooped cap P4-Pub KNDWING (11) IP Walturs) P Walturs 10 10 11

Dark blue beige cross-bells light blue sleeves beige and dark blue hooped cap

-5 declared
-5 declared
BETTING: 5-6 Dr Leunt, 11-4 Thursday Night, 5-1 Landed Gentry, Strong Paladin, 66-1 Knowledge FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE DR LEUNT, a smart puvenile hurdler and who did better than his figures gave him credit for last season, won incely at Exeter on his chasing debut and was set to follow up when he came down at the last at Newton Abbot. He was remounted to finish second but it was the fatility at the division within washin surprising as the trip was an extra seven furtings compared to this bit Leunt should be happer with todays distance and there shit a lot wrong with the form as Galatason Jane, who benefited at Newton Abbot, recently won for the sinth prime this season. The Galatason Jane stable may have the main danger in Thursday Night, who can a toll better at Newton Abbot tast time when just massing out to Well Timed in a handcap on heavy ground. The exits three furlongs here will suit. Landed Gentry is being tried in a visor after running no race at all here tast time. Selection. DR LEUNT

3.00 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3.000 2m 110yds Pen Value \$2,320

DUNRAVEN LADY (10) (D Brace) D Brace 5 10 9

amum weight 10st True hannksap weight Rare Occurance 9st 10to FTING: 7-4 Sadier's Realm. 7-2 Bold Statemant, World Express, 4-1 Fabuton, 12-1 Rare Occurant 1 Beyond Our Reach, 33-1 Manolete

3.30 CHEPSTOW CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS A) £10,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £6,610 , .L Cummins (a)

BEST/TING; 11-4 Musichill, 11-2 Irish Banker, 0-1 Kings Measure, 7-1 Billy Box, Sunday Venture, 0
1 Knock Leader, 10-1 Matchiess, 12-1 others

Super Tectics cloped the two-mic course record here when stamming Clay County 10 lengths in October 1996. This genuine type has twice scored over the longer trip here, including on his penulturate start last month after scoring at Newbury, while he was a fair third behind Celloate and Lord Dorcet under 12st at Ascot a week ago, Robert Ainer's tair find bearing Celibate and Lord Dorcet under tast at Ascot a week ago, Robert Ainer's me-year-old goes of it has same mark but will shoulder fible less lockly and has every chance, However, EDREDON BLEU, despite being 6th wrong in the weights, may have the edge. Hernfetta Kinghits charge was browng only his second outing of the season when making all to hold off Chery's Lad garnety by hait a length over todays trip at Lecester and should progress again. Coulton will be more at home at this trip after third in three-milers behind Cool Dawn at Ascot and The Grey Monk at Haydock, where he was best-en a distance. Southold was useful a couple of season back but has a long absence against him.

1.45 PERTEMPS CREAM WAYWARD LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

Royal blue, when halved skerves, red cap, royal blue star

- 6 declared
BETTING: 5-2 Humicana Lamp, 11-4 Sir Dente, 9-2 Amish, 11-2 Domberveth

Double, 6-1 Bay Longh

FORM GUIDE

Sir Dante, who looks every inch a chaser, ended lest season completing a hurdes haltrick and, although let down by faulty jumping when favourite and down the field to Nashville
Star on his chasing bow at Windsor, trotted up at Folkestone. He will improve further, Argel's Double, formerly a useful long-distance hurdier, was leading and going like a winner only to topole over three fances out in Flight Lieutenands race at Newbury in MarchBob Buckler's charge, second to Gitter liste at Lingfield before that, was the only other to
finish when 15-8 on and beaten 23 lengths by Gitter late at Plumpton on his final run last
tarm and will much sharper for his hurdles run against Go-Informal at Newhurry four weeks
back. Even op, this can go to HURRICANE LAMP, who was useful over timber last ferm
when going in at Warwick and Sandown and would have won again at the Esher track
on his final run last season except for falling at the final flight. A half-brother to useful
chaser Martin's Lamp, Hurncane Lamp has the make and shape to do well at this game
and he shaped well on his fencing bow behind Direct Route on a return to Sandown
David Nicholson's charge came in last of six finishers but he was beaten only nine lengths
and wan't given a hard time after hitting the third-last. He will improve a lot for the experience. Armain did well in the early past of this season on faster ground and was a credtable third to Wise King at Sandown (good) last time. Selection: HURRICANE LAMP FORM GUIDE

2.20 PERTEMPS CHRISTMAS HURDLE (GRADE 1) (CLASS A) £40,000 2m Penalty Value £24,945

BETTING: 5-4 Sanmartino, 11-8 Shadow Leader, 9-2 I'm Supposin, 12-1 Chai-Yo, 20-1 Kernel

FORM GUIDE

SANMARTINO, Shadow Leader and Tm Supposh are all prominent in the Champion Hurdle ante-post market. Im Supposh Innshed three and a half lengths in front of Sanmartino when they were lourth and settlin this year's turdling prown but that remains Sanmartinos single defeat after eight runs over timber and he has since given 6th and a 3t-length furnisming to Pachard Rowse runner in the Genry Felderia in Newbury, Sanmartino is a triple course and distance wither and, with his fitness guaranteed, can again show the way home. He was much superior to Shadow Leader on the level, Still, Shadow Leader comes here with a 100 per cent record over birther and could hardly have been more impressive than when landing the Supreme Noncas' Hurdle at the Cheltertham Festival. Charle Egerions charge and he followed up in the Scottlish Champion Hurdle at Ayr in April. Although without a race since, he has worked well. Kerawil ran Sanmartino to a neck here in October but the selection was a 3-1 on chance that day and had plenty in hand.

2.55 IT RECRUITMENT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) C4 1-6024 CREL DE BRION (28) (Hide Pracontal) F Doumen (Fr) 7 11 10 ___Mr T Dou

Tellow, legit blue hoop, amiles and cap 4/43-1 QATIS REGRETS (22) (D Gyle-Thompson) Miss H Knight 8 ft 3 White, ned hoops, amiles and cap 1/1-5F REDEENYOURSELF (22) (C) (BF) (Mis T Brown) J Gifford 8 ft 13 Dark blue, pink sects, pink secves, dark blue amiles, dark blue cap, pink spots U1-144 FRAZER ISLAND (21) (D) (BF) (Dr. B Alexander) R Rows 6 to ft 1 Brown, light blue cross-bets, stepad sleeves, legit blue cap

16-U22 ANORE LAVAL (17) (D) (BF) (Mrs C Wholit) K Bailey 8 10 8

Grey, print epartiest, hooped sleeves, print cap 1P1-25 ORSWELL LAD (21) (R M E Winghi) P Hootis 8 10 8 Emerald green, whate armiets, samped or 122F-1 SCORESHEET (49) (Pet Mell Partners) J Giflord 7 10 0

Oravell Lad's first preterence is the 12.50 at Cheptered —

Mammunt weight 10st True handicap weight Scoreshed 9st 12th

BETTING: 7-2 Arter Mole, 4-1 Ciel De Brion, 9-2 Oatis Regrets, 5-1 Scoreshedt, 6-1 Red self, 7-1 Andre Laval, 8-1 Fiszer Island

FORM GUIDE

An arteresting rematch here between Oaths Regrets, a winner at Sandown three weeks ago, and ARFER MOLE, who was upsides at the last only to take a crashing tall. There should be little in between the pair and Arfer Mote, with a 3to advantage can have the edge. The Sandown race was his first since February when he was a most decappoing favoure at Huntingdon in February but he woo both preceding starts last term - at Towcester and Sandown, Andre Laval deserves a change of fortune. He bundered and unseated on his reappearance and has had the others well beaten oil in going down only half a length in both subsequent outings - to Sunley Bay at Wincanton and Who is Equiname at Loicester, Francois Douments Clet De Briton, fourth in the Hennessy Gold Cup after an Auteui second, is another likely to go well. Reddeemsyourself was beaten when he fell two tences out in Oatis Regrets' Sandown race. Scoresheet from the same stable as Reddeemyourself, made a successful return at Wincanton last month bers MOLE. FORM GUIDE

3.25 PERTEMPS EDUCATION NETWORK Value £5,597 (CLASS B) £8,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £5,597 PERTEMPS EDUCATION NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE

-7 declared
-7 declared
BETTING: 11-4 Fire Ball, 4-1 Summer Spell, 5-1 Pealings, Three Farthings, 11-2 Secret Service
7-1 Khafidi, 12-1 Royal Piper

WETHERBY

1996: Meeting abandoned due to frost

Penalty Value £10.241

HYPERION 1.00 Barnburgh Boy 1.30 Desert Brave 2.00 Ardrina 2.35 Ask Tom 3.05 Over The Corrib 3.35 Soldier Mak

GOING: Soft Left-hand oval circuit. Run-m of 200yds slightly uphill. Course is NE of town on 81224 near pinction of A58 and A1.
 ADMISSION: Club £15 (accompanied under-18s free); Tartersalls
 Course £3 (OAPs £150). CAR PARK: Free.

• LEADING TRIAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy — 44 wanners from 178 runners gives a success ratio of 24.7%; G Richards 24 from 107 (22.4%); T Easterby 16 from 82 (22%): D Nicholson 17 from 65 (26.2%). ■ LEADIND JOCKEYS: P Niven 43 wans from 169 ades gives a success ratio of 254°s; L Wyer 36 from 151 (238°s); R Gernitry 12 from 128 (94°s); J Callaghan 9 from 78 (115°s).

■ FAVOURITES: 195 wars in 455 races (428°s).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None 1.00 BRADFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 3YD 2m

BETTING: 5-4 Barnburgh Boy. 5-1 The Real Microy, 0-1 Ferher, Norm Congoest. 8-1 in The Genes, Lymax, 14-1 Sattimbenco, 16-1 others

1.30 HARRY WHARTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 2m 4f 110yds | O-ZSF OAWN MISSION (21) (C D BF) Estectly 5 ft 10. L Wyer B F1.331 MINSTER GLORY (10) (C) M W Essently 6 ft 7 fbet, IR Johnson 3 353-01 DESERT BRANE (14) Mr.5 Smb.7 fb 2 ... G F Ryan (S) 4 30-535 DANRYS GORSE (30) (CD) J M Jefferson 5 fb 12 ... 9 Storty 5-5-47 ORGAN RECITAL (8) O Branca 8 fb 11 ft ... M Branca 6 37662 BROADWATER 80Y (41) M Hammord 9 fb 9. Mr C Borner (3) — 6 declared -

= 6 declared = BETTING: 2-1 Davin Mission, 11-4 Minster Glory, 7-2 Desert Brave, 7-1 Danbys Gorse, Broadwater Boy, 6-1 Organ Recital

2.00 LONG MARSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) \$7,000 added 2m 7f

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Kada 9st 11b, Ediedon Bleu 9st 8tb. BETTING: 5-2 Coulton, 11-4 Super Tactics, 100-30 Ediedon Bleu, 5-1 Kadil, 10-1 Southolt - 8 declared num weight: 10st. True handicage weight: Dockmaster 9st 10th. TING: 5-2 Great Baseby, 3-1 Campaign, 9-2 Ardrina. 7-1 km At The Dockmaster, 10-1 Hit The Canvas, Daily Boy. 18-1 Lethel Cocktail

2.35 CASTLEFORD CHASE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m

134-P1 ASK TOM (21) (D) T Take 8 11 10 R Gentle

23-313 NATIVE MISSION (14) (CD) J FitzGerald 10 to 0 Wyer

- 5 December -95TTING: 11-8 Ask York, 6-4 Vilding Flagship, 9-2 Lord Dorcet, 12-1 Down

3.05 APPLETON ROEBUCK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

2 4P/444 ERBINE STREET (15) D Bronnan 9 Ti 0 . . . M Bronnan 3 0022/3 FEELS LRICE GOLD (21) G Richards 9 Ti 0 B Handing

24PP-P SHARE OPTIONS (57) (C-D BF) T Easterby 6 11 0 L Wydr /36503 SUL FOSSO (10) Mrs S Smith 5 10 13 C F Ryein (9)

BETTING: 5-4 Sounds Fyre, 5-2 Feels Uite Cold, 6-1 Graville Again, 8-1 Share Options, 12-1 Ermine Street, Over The Comb, 53-1 Sul Fosso

3.35 BRAMHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

421 THE BUTTERWICK KID (17) (D) R Fahey 4 20. L Wyer 20. FOREVER NOSLE (14) M Hernmond 4 11 8 ... R Gardiny 5:265 THUNDERPORT (16) T Esserby 5 11 8 ... J Callaghan 2:223 CHINA KING (28) (D) (8F) J RozGerald 6 11 2. F Leathy (3) 0-365 CLAIRES (20NCER) (30) (D) A Turnel 4 11 1... C Rise (7) 2223 SOLDIER MAK (18) J Model 4 10 10 ... E Husband (3) 02-51 TABRIZ (15) (D) P Arbon 4 10 9 ... D Pears

LEICESTER

HYPERION Treasure 3.40 Carrolis Rock

1.05 Urgent Swift 1.35 Fair And Fancy 2.05 Waylarera Way 2.40 Garnwin 3.10 Dublin

GOING: Hurdes - Soft (Heavy patches in dip): Chases - Good Right-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yds.
 Course is 2m SE of city off A6 Lecester station (London Pancras - Sheffeld line) 2m ADMISSION: One enclosure 09 (O/ C5). Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free. Silver Ring Car Park - £12

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 16 winners from 68 runners ■ LEADING HARRENS: M Pipe — to Marketo notifice Labeling gives a success ratio of 23.5%; D Nicholson 12 from 50 [24%]. N Henderson 9 from 28 (32.1%], Mass H Knight 6 from 21 (28.6%)
 ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: W Mariston 10 wins from 66 rides gives a success ratio of *5.2%, G Bradley 6 from 30 (20%); J R Kavanagh 3 from 27 (*11%); S Wynne 2 from 31 (6.5%) • FAVOURITES: 86 wms in 251 races (34.3%)

1.05 PYTCHLEY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

11-1 ANDSUBPHI (70) (D) C Brooks 5 17 5 0.6F6 ALTHREY BLUE (252) R Peacock 8 10 12 SWymre GOLDEN HADEER (F19) M Pyran 6 10 12 J Ryan 35 OOBLE ATHLETE (54) (8F) Mrs. J Poman 5 10 12 ... R Farntat POU NOU Mrs P Sty 4 10 12 ... W Marston POU MOU Mrs P Sty 4 to 12 W Marston 04 URGENT SWIFT (18) M Pitman 4 to 2 JR Kananagh 00 FUNKY (14) F Jorgan 4 10 7 06 NEEDWOOD MUTKON (17) S Margan 4 10 7

B Us recurred to the state of t

HOBY SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) C-2344 EVEZIO RUFO (10) (D) N Littmoden 5 11 5 R Ferrant B
 S-324 EVEZIO RUFO (10) (D) N Littmoden 5 11 5 R Ferrant B
 S-325 FAIR AND FANCY (16) (CD) MSS M Miligan 6 11 5 D Gotlagher
 S-325 GLOWING PATH (28) (CD) R Hodges 7 II 5 T Descombe
 4666P BALMORAL FRINCESS (282) D McCan 4 11 0 S Wynne
 S-245 CHALLENGER ROW (18) (D) Mrs L Jevel 7 10 12 P Heritry (3)
 Cl EMBATIC (Charts. 11 Morres 4 10 2 J Spoole J R Kawan Gary Lyons

2.05 QUORN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 1f 12-51 WAYFARERS WAY (16) (D) N Henderson 6 n n J R Kavenegh 01:2-P YOUBETTERBELIEVET (26) C Brooks 8 n 10 M Berry (7) 261-25 NEW LEAF (22) (D) D (Sendosho 5 n 0 G Upton 5-5337 ASTRAL IMVASON II 1) TWAI 6 to 8 (7-6) 6-52-0 COSA FUAIR (23) h Balley 7 (0.5 P Hendey (3) - 5 declared -ETTING-11-10 Wavehavet Was 3.1 A strail invasion 7.2 Voubstants

BETTING: 11-10 Wayterers Way, 3-1 Astral Invasion, 7-2 Yout Nevel, 0-1 New Leaf, 10-1 Cosa Fusir

2.40 LEICESTERSHIRE SILVER FDX H'CAP CHASE (CLASS C) £12,000 2m 4f 110yds

3.10 HANCOCK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

BETTING: 3-1 Five Flags, 5-1 Grunge, Needwood Poppy, MSR 2 Dublin Treasure, Sigma Wireless, 8-1 Imed, 10-1 others

3.40 GALLOWTREE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 1 24.15 CONTOSSER (18) (CD) (BF) K Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 3 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 3 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 3 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 3 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 3 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morgan 5 to 0. P Morgan 5 to 0. P Morgan 6 to 0. P Morgan 4 to 0. P Morga

7 0-306 SALISONG (9) (CD) J Vihys 8-10.2 W Welch (7) 8-664-9 ZESTI (16) P Howing 5-10.0 J R Kevenogh — 8-declared — Manum weight 10st Into hands weight Zesti 9st 13th BETTING: 11-4 Dontdressfordinger, 7-2 Turnil House, 4-1 Cointoeser, 11-2 Carrolls Rock, 0-1 Vasitiov, Selssong, Zesti, 12-1 Eben Al Habeeh

PUNTERS' GUIDE

CHEPSTOW 12.50: SPARKLING CONE, racing

for the first time in more than 10 months, humbled a decept field in the mud at Towcester last time. Barning accidents this grey seems sure to continue the good form of his trainer, Venetia Williams. Orswell Lad drops down in distance by seven furlongs after failing to stay the trip in the race won by Dom Samurai here earlier this month.

1.20: This appears to rest between Virtuoso and RAINWATCH. The former has notched up two cosy victories at Uttoxeter and Warwick, but the form of Rainwatch's success at Newbury reads better.

1.55: Giventime should be coming to hand now after two runs. Andy Turnell's chestnut is a dual course winner and performs best in deep ground. Bells Life has won here four times - but all at distances under three miles. He ran a cracking race at Cheltenham last time and, if he stays, must go close today. Stablemate Samlee has a single victory to his name on this track. It will be interesting to see how he handles the going because his successes so far have been on better ground than this. Samlee certainly has stamina in abundance and is being aimed at the Grand National, Cyberge must be feared, though reports earlier this weeks of recent "hiccups" in training are of concern. It may be best to switch allegiance to another of Martin Pipe's numers - IN- HYPERICN'S TV TIES

raced seven-year-old wasan admirable runner-up heremiee weeks ago to yesterday. King George wittner, See More Briness

2.30: DR LEUNT will appreciate this shorter journey after taking in the closing stages at NewtonAbbol last time.

KEMPTON 1.10: KADI was travelling well no beginning to take closer orderntil makirg a shocking blunder afne 11th fehce at Cheltenham 34 time. A flear round should see tis underrated chaser home today

1.45: Sir Dante won a modet contest at Folkestone last week by is highly regarded at home. HUL-RICANE LAMP performed wit credit gainst far tougher rivals a Sandown on his reappearance.

2.20: A fascinating confrontation between would-be Champion Hurdlers. ANMARTIND just gets the nod o'es Shadow Leader.

2.55 REDEEMYOURSELF fell two fences out in the Sandown race won ly Oads Regrets three weeks ago but has excellent prospects of DIAN TRACKER. This lightly gaini revenge this afternoon.

| WELSH NATIO | NAL | IAH | 4DIC | AP | qu. | SE - | 10- | YEA | R-TA | LE |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-------|--------|--------|----------|------|------------|
| | 1987 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 |
| Fate of the favourites: | 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1/3_ | 1 | 1/P | A | A. |
| Winner's place in bettir | 1g: 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1_ | 1J | _1_ | 1J | Α. | _A |
| Starting-prices: | 5-1 | 94 | 15-8 | 9-2 | 9-4 | 11-4 | 64 | 5-2 | A | Α |
| Winning weights: | 10:11 | 10:1 | 1111 | 100 | 1122 | 109 | 100 | 11.6 | Α | _ <u>A</u> |
| Winner's age: | 8 | 7 | В | 8_ | 9 | 8 | TC. | 8 | A | <u> A</u> |
| Profit or loss to £1 state | e; Fav | ourite | 95 +S | 7.49 3 | 3007 | d Few | ourits | -58 | OD | |
| Percentage of winners | placed | 154, | 2nd o | r 3rd | n iae | race | 1001 | <u> </u> | | |
| Shortest-priced winner | s: River | side i | Boy (1 | 9931 | 4_ | | | | | |
| Longest-priced winner: | Playso | hool | (1987) | 5-1 | | | | | | |
| Top trainer: M Pipe - Bo Run For Fre | manza e (1992 | Boy (), Alv | 1988 8 erside | 198 Boy 1 | 88J) | | | | | |
| Top Jockey: P Saudamo | re - Bo | nanzi | Boy | (198: 3 | 1989 |), Car | viTs I | LI (199 | 71) | |

O'Brien's Frontier reaches new levels in Triumph

Rainbow Frontier became the vinning the Grade One Denny Gold Medal Novice Chase and new favourite for the Triumph Hurdle with William Hill after for the Arkle Cup after which retaining his unbeaten record a decision will be made about over hurdles at Leopardstown chillenging for the Arkle Tro-ph at Cheltenham. yesterday.

The Aidan O'Brien-trained performer showed battling qualities to give weight and a beating to eight rivals in the Denny Juvenile Hurdle. Second home, receiving 5lb, was the Christy Roche-trained Khaiarabar, who had occupied top spot in Triumph betting. He is now out to 16-1, from 12-1, while Rainbow Frontier is 12-1, from 25-1. Rainwatch, the 14-1 second favourite for the Triumph. runs at Chepstow today.

'Now it is on to Cheltenham with just one run in the meantime for Rainbow Frontier." O'Brien said.

Noel Meade's Dardjini also made a significant impact when FIRST SHOW

Chancton I EE

| CIR | eharn | | 33 | - 1 | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|-----|-------------|
| Horse | <u>.c</u> | H | _ L | T | | Horse |
| Cyborgo | 5-1 | 5-1 | 3-2 | 4-1 | 1 | Sparking |
| Indian Tracter | 41 | 6-1 | 5-1 | 51 | | Well Turn |
| Cariboo Gold | 3-2 | 71-2 | 7-1 | 02 | l | With Imp |
| Bells Life | 7-1 | 7-1 | 6-1 | 7-1 | 1 | Coulteen |
| Barrigo | <u>6-1</u> | 9-1 | B-1 | 8-11 | - 1 | Early Drin |
| Samlee | 8-1 | 9-1 | 7-1 | 9-/ | - 1 | |
| Belmont King | 9-1 | 9-1 | B-1 | 11- | - [| Indian Art |
| Dom Sanoural | 12-1 | 6-1 | 11-1 | 7 1 | l | Orswell La |
| Giventime | 14-1 | 9-1 | 10-1 | <u> </u> | 1 | Deriver B |
| Evangelica | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 2: | 1 | Benjamin |
| Greenhil Yare Any | ey20-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 | 21 | ١ | Each |
| Earth Summit | 33-1 | 33-1 | 25-1 | 21 | l | C - Coral I |
| Killeshin | 33-1 | 28-1 | 20-1 | -71: I | • | |
| Dakyns Boy | 40-1 | 40-1 | 50-1 | - I, I | 1 | |
| Foodbroker Star | 40-1 | 40-1 | 50-1 | [] ₄] | - 1 | |
| Each way, e qu | eder the | odtik, p | ieces 1. | 21 1 | - [| Herae |
| | | | | | | |

C - Coral H - William Hill L - Lactoroles, T - 7 The Tote also bet on the elevised Paddy Power Chart at Leopardstown:

6-1 Grime Five, Papilion, 8-1 Bobb of 8-1 Corker to 1 Time For A Run, 11-1 L of Singapore 12-1 Hessi, New Co. What Of A Kinghi M-1 Unas Choice 20-1 M; Inamarasband, Ryhane, Tell The Noper, Wy le Hide. 25-1 Solvang, Ultra Rutter 33-1 Bgr jos Hall Hermes, Harvest, Shanagarry Vilinon, Bock Bar, 50-1 Punters Bar

lempton 2.55 Herse Arm lacie 7-2 7-2 7-2 7-2 Cle De Brico 7-2 _ 4-1 _ 7-2 _ 4-1 Oat Regrets 41 41 51 41 Scorsheet 5-1 92 5-1 5-1 Redemyouself 8-1 8-1 5-1 5-1 Andre avei 7-1 6-1 7-1 7-1 Frazer send 9-1 6-1 7-1 6-1 Orswell ad : Enchange with the odds, places 1, 2,3

C - Coral | - Nam Hill L - Ladbrokes, T - Tote LEOPARDS TOWN

2.40 PADDY POWER HANDICAP CHAS (GRADE 2) C4 2.40 PADDY POWE & HANDICAP CHAS (GRADE 2)

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Busines The King Growth W Chase had been bished an a Natice between the

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FERS CORE MEN and Say Bar, and an house the stated as point. The state with an artist and Service Bernatt & Paris School they see a see pare by & OFFI CALLEY FORE the state of the second المرادة المعينية المسين

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AMOUNT . water

NB: Oatis Regrets He has always schooled welsince we tried him over fends." Meade said. "I just coun't get him right last winler, ough he was third in the Irist hampion Hurdle."

Triumh Hurdle (Cheltenham, 19 Marci William Hill: 12-1 Rainbow Fronti, 14-1 Rainwatch, 16-1 Buddy Marve Khairabar, Sound Appeal, 20-1 Ral Estate, Supply And Demand, Vent Dout, 25-1 The French Furze.

vil return to Leopardstown

RCHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Samlee

(Chepstow 1.55)

Chepstow 12.50 C_H L Cone 54 64 54 64 11-2 11-2 11-2 9-2 W 11-2 8-1 8-1 5-1 90 9-1 6-1 6-1 6-1 7-1 8-1 8-1 9-1

91 81 10-1 8-1 8 12-1 81 10-1 12-1 20-1 61 20-1 20-1 Licasign40-1 33-1 25-1 25-1 [2 w, e lith the odds, places 1, 2, 3 H William Hill L - Lackroles, T - Tole

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Market ...

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Business takes over to spoil the grey romance

The King George VI Chase had been billed as a battle between the greys One Man and Suny Bay, and aithough they started as jointfavourites, with another grey, Senor El Betrutti, a popular outsider, they were all eclipsed by a younger, stronger rival. Richard Edmondson reports from Kempton.

Business has been good this Christmas for John Hales, the manufacturer of Teletuhhies and owner of One Man, but yesterday it was the turn of another firm here in the King George VI Chase. One Man failed dramatically in his quest for a third consecutive crown as See More Business swept the old guard into the gutter.

The seven-year-old's victory was the most notable success in the careers of trainer and jockey Paul Nicholls and Andrew Thornton, and vindication for owners who had bought the gelding twice.

See More Business was relatively petite as a young horse, so Paul Barber and John Keighley let him go after purchasing him unseen. Two point-to-point wins later the cheque book was out again and See More Business was hack in their colours. The only thing small about the horse now is his price of 7-1 with Coral for the 1998 Gold Cup.

See More Business was only allowed to run in yesterday's race after Nicholls had walked the course to ensure the ground was sufficiently soft. He found the going suitable for otters.

Further rain held off until the runners emerged for the hig race under a monochrome sky. Overhead there were seaguils who had taken an effortless ride inland on the high winds.

It was not possible for See More Business to be the most compelling sight in yesterday's parade. That distinction had to go to the three greys in the race of a display by the Spanish drifting favourite out to 9-4 to join Suny Bay, was the fairest of

In the testing ground, the



Water hazard: One Man sails over the water jump at Kempton yesterday but the rain-softened ground put paid to his chance of winning a third King George VI Chase

Photographs: Robert Hallam

ergy. Barton Bank led, One Man jumped economically, stapled to the rail by Richard Dunwoody, and, gradually, See straight, but then his fusebox More Business exhibited that he belonged in this class.

"He was a little bit careful early oo and he took a hit of time to warm to his task," who lent proceedings the look Thornton reported. "I gave him a chance by taking him to the Riding School. One Man, the outside and then he started popping nicely."

Down the far side for the fithe three, and was made further and time there was further pop-Bartoo Bank disappeared after field weot at assault-course belting four out, at the same

assaulting the previous fence. Challenger Du Luc, who has a popular figure among his col-tival they hold at the foot of The grey actually landed in the lead at the first obstacle in the Lancashire cotton mills. weot. Hales's horse looked

rather Dipsy as he began staggering. One Man finished fifth, ultimately beaten 27 lengths and a distance, and there was much pathetic ahout the way he walked past the post. Nicholls had positioned him-

self between the last two fences and, as his horse slogged through the mud, he must alremarkable by his crimped tail. ping, that of fancied hubbles. most have been terrified to see ticularly his 25-year-old for Murphy, the suspended jockey another animal surfing smooth- mer amateur champion jockey. ly at See More Business's flank. Andrew Thornton drives further Thornton. He will be back. pace for the main body of the time as One Man was battling It was only almost though, be-than Tiger Woods in the course race in an effort to conserve en- to get back into the race after cause the beast to loom was of a year pursuing rides and is may return next at the little fes-

done more looming than the

On the run-in, Tony McCoy actually took a pull oo Martin Pipe's gelding and still found himself in front. Then, suddenly, Challenger was a challenger no more. He decided to settle for second, for the fourth consecutive occasion and the ninth time in all.

nothing away from the victory ber and Keighley made special of See More Business and par-

RACING RESULTS

leagues. When he removes his Presthury Hill each March. contact lenses Thornton's sight is so poor he cannot see the horse he is sitting on.

Paul Barber too cannot view all the cows in his dairy herd, but that is because he has so many of them. In Somerset they talk of two sections of the county, the 2.500-acre slab he owns (the pasture for 1,400 cows) and This surrender should take the little portion left over. Barmention yesterday of Timmy who made the saddle warm for

See More Business himself

"The ultimate has got to be the Gold Cup," Barber said. "You cannot get higher than that." By the way connections celebrated vesterday, and Nicholls's face was oscillating geotly as he tried to keep composure, you could tell they thought a King George was a long way up from base camp as well.

GOLD CUP (Cheltenham, 19 March): Coral: 9-2 Dorans Pride, 7-1 See More Business, 9-1 The Grey Monk, 10-1 Imperial Call & Suny Bay; Ladhrokee: 4-1 Itorans Pride, 5-1 The Bay, Ledbrokes: 4-1 florars Prids, 5-1 The Grey Monk, 8-1 Suny Bay, 10-1 Imperiat Cal, 12-1 See More Business, 16-1 Rough Cuest & Cytorgor, Totes 5-1 Dorars Pride, 6-1 Suny Bay, 8-1 The Grey Monk, 10-1 Imperial Cal, 12-1 Rough Cuest & See More Business, 14-1 Addington Boy; William Hitt: 4-1 Dorars Pride, 8-1 Suny Bay & The Grey Monk, 10-1 Imperial Cal, 12-1 See More Business, 16-1 Rough Quest.

4; 2. Market Goselp 7-4 fav; 3. Dantly des Plauts 12-1 8 ran. 7, 4. (Mrs P Sty). Tota: £350; £180, £140, £310 DF: £230, CSF; £732



Business completed: Andrew Thornton takes the acclaim



GREG WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

O is for .

Objection: Complaint lodged by a jockey after the end of a - either they were indeed seriously impeded as they went about their normal, lawful business of attempting to win, or they made such an almighty hash of things when the money was down that it is vital to shift the blame. The ratio of the former to the latter is generally reckoned to be about

Official: Not a word to treat with the greatest of respect ~ particularly when it is followed by "going", although given the bizarre system which gives clerks of the course responsibility both for assessing the ground and maximising the gate revenues, they can hardly be hlamed for a touch of subjectivity. Sometimes it seems that you can go for months, through winter downpours and summer droughts, when there is not a single going return without the word "good" in it, and this despite the existence of an alternative which seems to work well enough in France. Anyone who travels to Longchamp comes second nature.

And the second of the second o

miliar with penetrometer exception of those in £400-areadings, returned as a whole year clubs with 500 members (1.4, for instance, or 4.7), and change in the reading can indicate, for example, just how fast the ground is drying. British clerks, however, stick stubbornly to their meagre total of seven basic descriptions - and so would you, if you had been telling outrageous porkies for years and thought you were about to be rumbled. Overround: The bookmak-

er's theoretical profit margin on a set of prices, and though it requires the application of a little basic maths, a concept which all punters should understand, since the lower the overround, the better the betting value on offer. Anyone farace, for one of two reasons miliar with this process is hereby excused. Everyone else, sit up straight and pay attention. To calculate the percentage chance a price such as 2-1 represents, simply divide the left side by the right, add one, and then divide 100 by the result. Thus, 2-1 is: $\frac{2}{1}$ = 2 + 1 = 3. 10% = 33.3%, while 15-8 is 34.8%. (Alternatively, consult the very handy list of prices and percentages in any decent racing diary). Do try to keep up, Wakeham minor, and don't do that. Ricketts, you'll spread germs. Now, add together all the percentages for a particular book, and than 100, the book is "underround", and there will he some serious value available). That extra percentage on top

of 100 is the bookie's margin.

overround, while anything

above 25 per ceot is best

avoided. With a little practise,

this is a vital exercise which be-

number and a decimal place and a couple of horses - fall in to one of two categories: appreciate that even a subtle rich, or reckless. The best type of all, from a trainer's point of view at least, is the owner who is both, for as many generations of handlers have discovered, even the sharpest and most ruthless of people tend to lose every critical or suspicious faculty the instant they part with money for a horse. An accountant who predicted profits for their company of 10,000% on turnover, for instance, would be sacked on the spot. If a trainer, on the other hand. vaguely hints that the horse they have just bought for a rock-bottom 10,000 guineas could make up into a Festival contender one day, they will keep sending him fat cheques until, and indeed probably

even after, the nag in question

has been soundly beaten in a

seller at Fakenham.

Orders and off: The magic words which, when spoken over the Tannov in an anparently empty hetting shop, can summon dozens of punters from thin air to create an unseemly ruck at the window. Hanging on to your bet until the last possible moment to try and nick another eighth of a point about the favourite is all very well, but somewhat self-defeating if you need the you should get a number speed of an athlete and the greater than 100 (if it is less attitude of a houncer to take advantage. If betting just isn't the same without the last-second adrenalin rush, you could always move to Ireland. where the attitude to bets in Anything up to about 15 per running can be far more uncent offers fair value, and 15 derstanding, and the raceto 25 per cent is an average course Tote has been known to accept hets on, say, a twomile handicap hurdle when the leaders are about to leave the back straight for the final

for the Arc quickly becomes fa- Owners: All owners - with the 12.40: 1. ERINTANTE (Mr T Doumen) 9 1; 2. Better Offer 7-1; 3. Shahrur 13-2, 7 ran. 4-6 lav Zarakaska (pulled up). 12, hd. (F Doumen, France), Tote: £1300, £350, £180. Dual Forecast: £5340. Computer Straight Borneset PE744

1.10: 1, FIDDLING THE FACTS (M A Pitzgerald) 5-2; 2. Forest Ivory 9-4 fav; 3. Ottowa 4-1 6 ran. 6, 6, (N Henderson, Lambournt Total \$300, \$140 \$230 DF: \$420 CSF: £754. Non Runner Bengers Moor. 1.45: 1. SERENUS (M A Fitzgerald) TI-4 Jt fav; 2. Tibetan 11-4 Jt fav; 3. Kingstold Pet 11-2 7 rsn. 2%. 18. (N Honderson, Lam-bourn). Tote: £3.40: £2.10, £2.10. DF: £4.20.

CSF: £959, Tricast: £32.94 Non Runner: Bless 2.20: 1. SEE MORE AUSINESS (A Thornson) 10-1; 2. Chaffenger du Luc 16-1; 3. Rough Quest 11-2 8 ran. 9-4 |t tavs One Man & Surry Bay (4th) 2, 10. (P Nicholis, Shepton Maller). Tote: £10.90; £180. £230. \$160.DF. £3360.CSF: \$12540.Tno: £5600.

2.55: 1. KADASTROF (A Thornton) 9-4: 2. Lake Kariba 6-4 (ev. 3. Zebedi 5-1 il ren. 21., 17 (R Dickin Newent), Tote: £360: £190 £120, DF: £190 CSF: £582. Non Runner: in-

fermagic. 3.25: 1. HAILE DERRING (C Llewellyn) B-1; 2. Toby Brown 5-1, 3. Decyborg 11-1 6 ran. 5-4 fav Fnendship (fell) 5 dist. (N £360 £200 DF: £2440 CSF: £4330 Jackpot: £56,415.30 (part won, pool of £71,512.41 is carried forward to Kempton to-

Piace 5: 552516 Place 5: \$62.20

12.55; 1. FORZAIR (R McGrath) 7-2; 2. Reflegio 7-4 lav. 3. Person's Lodge 11-2 10 nan. 3.3 (J.J. ONell) Tota: 53:30. 51:90. 51:50, 62:10 DF: 64:50. CSF: 68:8 Thoast £2552 7no £220. 1.25: 1. WELSH MARCH (J Callaghan)

6-5 tav: 2. La Riviera 10-1; 3. Cittachno 2 H ran. 11, 17. (G Moore), Tole: £180; £130, £400, £220, OF, £600, CSF, £139 Tno. £2130 Non Runner Ham NEggs 2,00: 1. EASEY JOKER (R McGrath) 8-1. 2. Tindies Bible 25-1; 3. Polar King 9-

2. 7 ram, 7-4 tay Hopeful Lord (4th), 1/-, 7 ell) Tota: £12 70; £3.50, £5.20 DF C7610 CSF: £10284 2.35: 1. JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN IM C Storey) 7-2; 2. Seeking Gold 7-2; 3. Peter 10-1, 7 ram, 3-1 fav Naughty Future (4th), 3, 6. (Mrs.) Storey) Tote: 9580; 9310, 9170 DF.

£700 CSF: £1471

3.10: 1. RACHAEL'S OWEN IR McGram 6-1; 2. True Scot 10-1; 3. Solsgirth 6-4 fev. 6 ran. 3, 11. (J Golde). Tota: £630; £210. £220. DF: 51410 CSF: 64581 3.40; 1. PALACEGATE KING (S Taylor) 5-2; 2. Rossel 6-4 fav; 3. Bells Hill Lad 14-

1 5 rant, 1 8, (A Whatans), Tota: \$340, \$2-20, E170 IF. 1320 CSF: 1626 Placapot: 154140 Cuadpot: 116480 Place 5: 140809 Place 5 134688

HEREFORD

12.35: 1. SHORE PARTY (T Jenks) 11-4 lev: 2. Builder Boy 11-2, 3. Seras Delight 5-1 13 ran. 4 9 IN Twiston-Daviesi Total 1480; 2210, 2190, 2240 DF 1880, CSF \$18.29 Non Runners Gallant Taffy, Oyster 1.05: 1. THE VILLAGE WAY (\$ Wynne)

5-6 tav; 2. Latchford 20-1; 3. Balloa 33-1. 14 ran. 21. 11/. (Miss Venetia Williams). Tota: £210; £130, £8.60, £5.40, DF: £29.40, CSF: £2524 MRs: Drama King, Mr Lembrini

1.35: 1. WEATHER WISE (J R Kavanagh) 5-2 tav; 2. St Mollion Leisure 5-1; 3. Just For A Reason 7-1. 7 ran. 6, % (W Turner) Tota: £3.20; £180, £3.20 DF; £14.70. CSF: £14.50. Tricast: £70.04. Non Aumer: The Cheese Baron. No bid for the winner. 2.05: 1. WINNOW (J Culory) 3-1; 2. Can't Say 8-2; 3. The Crooked Oak 10-1, 8 ren. 9-4 fav Raphsel Bodine (pulled up). 5, 30. (Mas H Knight) Total: €3,70; £1,50, £1,30.

BOBST DAGO, CSF: £17.46. Tricast: C11511. Non Runners: Super Rachart, Waytarers Way. 2.35: 1. HIGH LOW (Mas E J Jones) 10-, 2. Caracol 2-1 fav; 3. Lord Nitrogen 7-2 11 page 9 4 / Jones) Tota: 51590: 5300. \$130, £150, DF: £2090, CSF: £3029. Tric-

Secret Gift, The Brewer. 3.05: 1, FREDDIE MUCK (T Jenks) 13-Tote: £270; £170, £240, £220, DF: £2430.

ast: 58442, Non Runners: Lime Street Blues,

3.35: 1, STUDIO THIRTY (X Aizpuru) 2-1 lev; 2. Distant Storm 7-2; 3. Blaze of Song 7-2, 10 ren. 1%, 2. (R Dickin). Tota: £3.40; £150, £210, £160 DF: £3.30 CSF. £1086. Triit £2431. Non Runners: Don't Tell Tom, Mr Goorhilly. Placepot: £55.80. Quadpot: £9.20.

Place 6: £4737, Place 5: £25.86 HUNTINGDON 12.30: 1. MUSIC THERAPY (J A Mc-

Carthyl 3-1; 2. Harlequin Chorus 4-1; 3. The Tolerach 5-2 tax. 9 ran. 1; 5. (Capt 7 Forster) Tote: \$450, \$130, \$160, \$150. Dual Forecst: C1870, CSF; C1642, Non Runner: Inch 1.00: 1. OCCOLD (Michael Brennan) 7-

2; 2. Eirespray 5-1; 3. Garethson 3-1 fev. 10 ran. 11/., 22. (G Hubbart). Tota: £390; 1.30: 1. ERNEST WILLIAM (Michael Brennani 7-4 fav. 2. Master Dancer 40-1: 3. The Brower 7-2 13 ran. 14, 1 1/4. (G Hubbert). Tote: \$3.30; £170. £830. £180. DF: £6020. CSF: £8625. Tricast: £4274. NR:

2.00: 1. OCEAN LEADER (J F Titley) 4-1: 2. Karanastino 8-1; 3. High Learle 5-2. 7 ran. 2-1 tev Gerns Lad (pulled up). 11/4, dist. (Mrs. D. Haine). Tota: £550; £280, £340. DF: £1650, £3F. £2726. Thicast: 057:18. NRs: Black Statement, Paviova, Some 2. Banny Hill Lad 5-1; 3. Physical Fun 12:

1 15 ran. M, 3 (Capt T Forster) Tota: £3.00; £160, £2.40, £3.30, DF: £890, CSF: £10.40. 3.00: 1. DAYS OF THUNDER (8 Cittors) 12-1; 2. Ferwick's Brother 11-8 fav. 3. Sieszsy 7-2 8 ren. 5. dist (Mrs S Odel), Tote: £1170, £3.20, £140. DF: £880. CSF: £2886. Tricast £6930, NRs; Alcove, Aubum Boy. 3,30; 1. RUNNING WATER (M Richards)

5-1, 2. In The Van 5-1, 3. Suntruugun 7-2 Ji lav 18 ran. 7-2 Ji lav Hulk 7, 7 (P Hedge). Tote: £1280, £3.30, £180. £2.70. DF: £7880. CSF C3790 NF: Jet Speciels.
Ptacepot: £2170, Quadpot: £1270. Piece 6: £35.79 Piace 5: £2805

MARKET RASEN 12.30: 1. TUDOR FALCON (D Parker) 25-1, 2, Thomas Crown 9-4 lay, 3, African Sun 7-2 7 ran. 7, 2%. (P Bracky). Total £36.40:

12.45; 1. ARDENT SCOUT (N Bent 12.45; 1. ARDENT SCOUT (N Bentley) 11-1; 2. Nessayer 16-1; 3. Glenbower 4-1 13

£920, £170, DF: £9830, CSF: £8017, Tricast: 1. 4 ran. 19, dist. (M Hammond, Middleham). Total: £170. DF: £190. CSF; £275. NFIS: Kadastrot, Shiring Edge. £238.31 Non Runners: Brandon Bridge. adastrof, Shiring Edge. 1.50: 1. NEW INN (Mr S Durack) 5-2; 2. 1.00: 1. BASSENHALLY (W Marston) 9-

House of Dresms 4-1; 3. Sumsnid 11-1.5 ran. 8-4 fav Dr Bones (4th). 11/s, 30. (S Gollings, Louth). Tota: £3.50; £170, £170, DF: Tricest: £38.25. NRs: Pearls Choice. Strenc. 1.35: 1. CERIDWEN (W Worthington) 3-EB70 CSF: £1180 NF: Kaitak. 2.25: 1. STRATH ROYAL (M Brennen) S-1; 2, Major Bell 9-2; 3. Sparky Gayle 9-4. 4 ran. 13-8 fev Colonel in Chief (pulled up). 1; 2. Master Boston 4-1; 3. Price's Hill 7-4 fav. S ram. 28, dist. (T Greathead) Tota: 6420; \$170.\$170.DF: \$790.CSF: \$1522.NRs: 13. dist. (O Brennen, Worksoo), Tota: \$3.30. DF: £1000. CSF: £1352. NR: Auto Anson. 2.55: 1. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (L 2.05: 1. COLOUR CODE (J Supple) 4-5 lev; 2. Fearers 4-1; 3. Donnybrook 8-1 12 ren. 11 3. (Mrs A Swirbank). Tote: \$250; \$170. Wyer) 5-4 fev; 2. Bramblebarry 11-2; 3. Northents 12-1 6 ran. 5, 5, (T Easterby, Mai-

£160, £200, 11F: £310, CSF: £468, NR: Cotton) Tota: £190; £160, £120, DF: £340, CSF; 2.35: 1. LETS BE FRANK (D Finnegan) 3.25: 1. JUSTIN MAC (P Carbony) 5-2; 2. Foundry Lane 4-5 fax: 3. Hoh Express 12-1. 15 ran. 1/4, 24. (J FitzGerald, Malton). 5-2; 2. Danz Point 2-1 Jt tav; 3. Neitegrity 2-1 Jt tav. 5 ran. 1/2. (Noal T Chance). Tota: £290; £180 £180 DF: £280 CSF: £785. Tota: 9420: \$170 \$140 \$350 DF \$310 CSF \$5.33. The: £10.90. NRs: Florentine, Lord NR: Merchant Ming. . 3.05; 1. TEJANO GOLD (W Marston) 8-

Placeport Str.00, Ouadoot: \$1000

Place 6: £11983. Place 5: £35.16.

WINCANTON

11-8 fav; 2. Kentilord Tina 12-1; 3. Kinna-halfa 8-1. 13 ran. 2, 18. (Il Nicholson). Tota:

£250; £180, £420, £200 DF: £1580 CSF:

£15.89 Trio: £40.10. 1.20: 1. ROBINS PRIDE (G Tormey) 11-

1; 2. Morstock 13-2; 3. The Carrot Man 9-1. B rast, 6-4 tay Storm Run. 8, 4 (C Popham). Tota: £1310; £280, £150, £120. DF:

14-1; 2. Northern Starlight 2-1; 3. Glitter lele 15-6 fax 5 ran. (R Hodges). Tota: £1650, £300, £180 DF: £1230, CSF: £40,71 NF: Am-

2.30: 1. BUCKHOUSE BOY (R Johnson)

\$10.50; \$2.90, \$1.40, \$1.50 DF; \$1810, CSF;

64571 Thoast £12937. Tho: £5560. NRs: Ame-

3.00: 1. BRAVE HIGHLANDER (P Hide)

5-1; 2. Danger Baby 100-30; 3. Linton Rocks 11-4. Jt fav. 6 ran. 11-4. Jt fav. Jultara. 1/s. 17. (J Gafford). Totes £5.60; £2.40, £150. DF: £14.0 CSF: £1998. NF: Sunley Bay. 3.30; 1. CATEMPO (A Bases) 13-2; 2.

Song of Kenda 20-1; 3. Nr Dercy 5-2 for

9 ran. 6, 1/4. (G McCourt). Total £280; £240, £540, £130. DF: £3800. CSF: £3807. Tricast

£36535, Trio: £10560, NRs: Bet Witshire, Feb-

ulous Mitoto, Militard Sound, Negative Equi-

WOLVERHAMPTON

2300, £150. DF; £2750. CSF; £2566. TAC

apot: £5320. Quadaot: £880.

Place 5: £157.04. Place 5: £97.69.

Straveez. Froicking (3-1) was withda

1.55: 1. WAYWARD KING (T Desc.

ter 3-1 fex. 10 ren. nk, 7. (D Nicho

12.50: 1. POTTER AGAIN (R. Johnson)

11 fay; 2. Non Vintage 9-4; 3. Cheeks 5-1. 4 ran. 1'/s, 24. (P Bradley). Tota: £1.60. DF: \$170, CSF: £2.93. After 8 stewards inquiry the placings remained unaltered. 3.35: 1. BAHER (Miss R Clark) 4-1; 2. Shark 7-2: 3. Lord Hastin 5-1, 10 ran. 9-4 fav Sally's Twins (6th). 1/4. (S Clerk). Total: £510; £140, £160, £180. DF: £1090. CSF:

\$18.75 NRs: Carrolls Rock, Forget Paris, Kata-tonic, Steam On. Placepot: \$24.70. Quadpot: \$1750. Place 6: £3483. Place 5: £1294.

SEDGEFIELD

.00: 1. BIRKDALE (R Supple) 10-11 lav: 2. For Cathel 7-4; 3. Kakeahde 11-2 7 ran. 2, 30 (L Lungo), Tote: £210; £170, £150 DF: £190. CSF: £255 1.30; 1. SIRERIC (K Johnson) 9-2 Co tar; 2, Tudor Fellow 9-2 Co tar; 3. Kibby Benk

2. 10 ren. 9-2 to tay Dark Oak (unseated rider). 15, 28, (5 Bell). Total: \$400, \$180 2.00: 1. CHIPPED OUT (C McCormack)

7-4 Jt fav; 2. Cademoy 66-1; 3. River Challenge 7-1, 13 ran, 7-4 Jt fav Executive Design (pulled up), 3, 20. (Martin Todhumer). Tote: £3.20; £150, £10.40, £150 DF; £275.80. CSF: £16779. 2.30: 1. MARBLE MAN (D Bentley) 8-1 Co tev; 2. Val de Rama 3-1 Co tev; 3. Xalpete 3-1 Co tev, 6 ran. 6, 22. (M Pell). Tota: 6440; 5210, 6170, DF: 6700, CSF: 61209. Tricaet: 62600, NRs: Kildrummy Castle,

Shultan, Uk Hyglena. 3.00: 1, TOSHIBA TALK (C McCorma-(A) 9-4 fav; 2. Stylish interval 8-1; 3. Topothenorthracing 8-1 12 ran, 5 ft (B Elson). Tota: £290; £170; £220; £180, DF: £1580. CSF: £1629. Tricest: £8841. 3.30: 7. GLANGO (F Leehy) 5-1; 2. Gen-

eral's Orders 7-2; 3: Illemond Beach 9-2. 6 ran, 3-1 fav Fatehalikhar (fell). 26, ½. (J FitzGerald) Tota: 5790; 5210, 510, 5140, DF; 5990. CSF: 52182, Tricest: 57751. oot: £40.40, Quedoot: £15.40.

WETHERBY

\$165.40 CSF: \$159.87. Tricast: \$770.24. Trio:

1.15: 1. HAM N'EGGS (R Gerritty) 4-6

deduct 25p in the pound. Stravere (10-1) was withdrawn not under orders, Rute 4 applies to all bets, deduct 5p in the pound. The: £4590 (part won, pool of £4594 carried for ward to Chepstow 155 today). 2-45: 1. REDOUBTABLE (A Cuhane) 3-

1 tav; 2. Eastern Prophets 9-2; 3. Elite Hope 4-1.8 ran. 1/2, 1 1/2. (D Chapman), Toto: 9500; E180, E170, E160, DF: £1830, CSF: £1611, TH 3.15: 1. LIONIZE (W Ryan) 4-1; 2. De-

mourat 2-1 fav; S. Queen's Pageard 25-1. 9 ran. 1%, 3%. (Mrs J Cech). Tote: £630; £160, £140, £450, DF: £540, CSF: £1042, Tricast: £14682. Trio: £3620. 3.50: 1. REX MUNDI (A McCarthy) 6-4

tav: 2. Red Phantom 10-1; 3. Sidney The Kidney 14-1. 9 ran. nk. 6. (P Evans). Yote: \$250; \$110, \$250, \$230. DF: \$1210 CSF; £16.35, Trio: £41.60, NR: Tabasco Jazz. 1: 2. Minera Ray 7-4 tear 3. Xennohon of

Curaca 25-1 11 ran. 1 11/.. (J Spearing). Tota: 5700; 5200; 5170; 5780; DF: \$1130; CSF: 2. Chedleigh Lane 10-1: 3. Guess 5-1 9 ran. 6, 1/s. (P Evane) Tota: \$5:0; \$200, \$1.70, \$150, DF: \$23.80, CSF: \$23.43, Treast.

E92.00. NR: Principal Boy. Trio: E790. Placepot: £595.90. Quadpot: £3710. Place 6: £126.79. Place 5: £66.56.

 Yesterday's card at Newton Abbot was abandoned as the course was waterlogged.

 Strath Royal seized the 18th victory of his career when ploughing through the mud to collect the £20,000 Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby yesterday. Ridden by Martin Brennan, he produced a bold display of jumping to put better-fancied rivals in their place and stretched clear in great style to defeat Major Bell by 13 lengths. Sparky Gayle was a distance away in third while the favourite, Colonel in Chief, was pulled up

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 972 | 982 WETHERBY 973 983 974 984 LEICESTER

1.15: 1, DOUGLE-O (J Quirn) 4-1 iav, 2. Ramsey Hope 5-1; 3. Milke's Double 8-2. 8 rant, 114, 1. (W Jarvis). Tote: £4.80; £2.20, est: £9474 1.40: 1. AHLEYAT (W Ryen) 4-1; 2. Othar Club 8-1; 3. Petitan 20-1, 8 ran. 10-11 lav Fayik (4th), 11/4, 1/4. (J.HBs), Tota: \$430; \$240, \$320, DF; \$1190, CSF; \$2576, 2.15: 1, TOUCHANOVA (J. Quinn), 8-1; 2. Commoutationing 14-1; 3. Just For Time 1; 1. Trans. 3-1 Jt tav Night Auction (6th), 2%, Ind. (G Mergerson) Total: £630; £360, £400. DF: £2560. CSF: £4027. NRs: Froliclang. 0891 261 970

early in the straight.

Pete Davies reports from Madras New Zealand women 175-6 England women 155 NZ women won by 20 runs

When Megan Lear took over as women's cricket team in the spring of 1996, she told them title would be like climbing Everest. In yesterday's semifinal, England fell off the mounsights, and it was all too appropriate to this tournament that their fall took place amid farcical confusion.

bowled and fielded as well as they had all tournament. However, all that effort was wasted after a bizarre decision from the didn't make any difference, umpires. England had restricted New Zealand to 175 for 6, a well enough. But you just don't target they felt was eminently achievable, but they were then advised that they would have cause I still believe we're the only 49 overs to bat, as they bad better side." exceeded the allotted three

hours in bowling their own 50. Lear went to the umpires to point out that refreshment

that time, not to mentioo assorted delays as one mangy dog after another wandered onto the outfield. She returned to say that England would get their full 50 overs and that hands had been shaken on it. England proceeded to bat and then discovered, with a dozen the coach of the England overs remaining, that they only had 49 overs after all.

Heated tempers are no aid that retaining their World Cop to calm batting but, in truth, when England's fourth wicket fell with the score on 100 in the 36tb over, they had already tain with the summit in their started leaving themselves too much to do. They finished 155 all out in the 48th over, 20 runs short, and their World Cup odyssey thus came to a messy In the morning. England and bitterly disappointing end,

Lear said firmly: shouldn't have been docked any overs. But in the end it we've lost because we didn't hat need that sort of confusion, and it's obviously disappointing be-

England's problem in cricket terms was that this was only the second time in seven World Cup matches that they had batany sort of target to reach. On the day, they did not pace themselves properly and, as captain Karen Smithies readily admitted, they lost too many wickets too early along the way.

For all that, until the mist of confusion descended, they bad looked New Zealand's equal. In fact, in this tournament only Australia have looked better. It is no consolation to say it but, in an exhausting and chaotic three weeks, these players have done themselves proud.

New Zealand Women's XI won loss NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S XI D Hockley c Leng b Edwards E Druntim law b Smithles S Frum run dut

England's Jan Brittin just makes her ground as New Zealand's wicketkeeper Rebecca Rolls eals for a run out in the World Cup semi-final inMadras yesterday Photograph: Allsport

Waugh hoodoo hits South Africa

Australia 206-4 v South Africa

South Africa must be sick of the sight of Steve Waugh. Another fighting knock when the chips were down rescued Australia from a grim 77 for 4 to a comfortable 206 for 4 at the close of the first day of the venue io 22 years. first Test in Melbourne.

Waugh's stonewall resistance gave way to accomplished stroke-making to leave him unbeaten oo 37 at stumps. His knock and Ricky Ponting's 56 not out wrested the initiative from Hansie Cronje's side after two sessions of grindingly slow scoring.

In eight Tests against South Africa, Waugh has amassed 760 runs at an average of 84.44. He is within sight of his third century against them, having scored 164 in Adelaide almost four years ago and 160 in Johannesburg last February. Waugh and Ponting's 129-

run partnership took just 150 minutes - a dazzling turnaround after only 92 runs in the four hours up to tea.

"It is important that we build up a big first innings because the wicket is only going to get harder to hat on and

a big part in this game because Pat Symcox did spin a few today." Ponting said. With the bowlers straying off line late in the day and the slow pitch playing a little easier, runs flowed in the last session - much to the relief of the 73,812 crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the biggest Test crowd at the

Westw

The South Africans, fancyiog their chances of ending Australia's pursuit of their ninth straight Test series victory, controlled much of the day with accurate line and length and acrobatic fielding.

Just 18 runs were scored in the first hour and South Africa went to lunch with three prized wickets - those of Matthew Elliott, Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh - after only conceding 44 runs in 120 minutes.

Australia worn toss
AUSTRALIA - First lenning
M T Bliott o Richardson b I
*M A Taylor o Kirsten b Mo
G S Blevrett at Richardson

o bat: †1 A Healy. P R Reifi S Kasorowicz. G 11 McGta

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, A M Bache H Kalls, O J Culinen, "W J Cronie, B M Mc len, S M Poliock, L. Klusener, †D J Riche

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..seeks a similar male, to liveri up her ide. Leeds area. 224743

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hve, tall man, 25-33, for thend-ship, relaboriship. Birmingham area. 13/4745

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N/D too, for Inendship and who
knows, 174652
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lenging companion, with similar interests. for long walks, who doesn't mind cats and 8 chaotic, vibrant household. By/Cambridge, 274628 Don't Forget

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48-58, to share travel, concerts, country walks and good conversation. Cambs. 29:4631

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strong man, 40s, to laugh, talk
and explore logether, \$24841

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Petite, sim, attractive, mdependent, sincere, warm, motivated,
professional termale, 42, oriental origin, anjoys theatre, opera,
classic music, gardening, cooking, seeks canning, gerutine, sincare, educated male, smilar age,
to share intressis, by Hendship, relaborishp, \$24596

ship, relationship, 124596

Dark-eyed, Latin-looking female, 32, seeks tall, handsome, pro-

tessional, romantic male, able to stere a long-term relation-ship, Glasgow, T74582

Time: TO DREAM
Retired widow, would like to tum desarries into resity, Are you free and genuine, cheerful and optimistic, learn to take on chal-

attractive termile, seeks sorted, solid male, 44-52, with wit, integrity and a sense of play, 124-59. SOMETHING AMISS?
Female, 49, with career, interests and friends; but no special man, seeks kind, able male, to belly make the difference. East

help make the difference. East LOVE AND LAUGHTER Sim, attractive, Carterbury ledy, early 50s. wents to exchange thoughts and smiles with an intel-ligent men, who would be at least every dear friend. \$74598

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northern soul. R&B, krisch, reading. cats, smoker (would give up for right men), no com-plications please. London area.

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Independent, strong-willed, pro-fessional female, 39, 5'6", seeks tall male, to help me re-decorate NOT MUCH GOING FOR ME Attractive, intelligent, sim femals, young 61, normal inter-ests and activities, but not

female, young 61, normal interests and activities, but not sporty, seeks fively, curing, considerate male companion, of similar age, for friendship/fasting relationship. Nottu/Derby/Leicester area. EP-4353
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romantic male, 38, 5/8°, N/S.
GSOH, enjoy conversation,
music, dancing, dining si/out,
sede outgoing, uncomplicated
lady, GSOH, who takes life in
ner strick, for theridable, possible relationship, 124938
SWIM IN THIS SWIM IN THIS

SWIM IN THIS
Tall male. 33, tikes denong,
swimming, cinema, travelling,
seeks female, smilat age, for
companionship, possible marnage, \$22,942 HIPPY AT HEART HIPPY AT HEART
Attractive, unpretentious mais
teacher, 42, 58°, medium build,
who thinks he's younger than
he is, into logging, pointes, traet, whiting, wellung, Russian
language-society seeks compatible, younger female East
Midlands, 174939

SEEKING CHEERFUL LADY dark/brown, enjoys motor rec-ing, 50s/50s/70s music, natural history, cats, travel, reading, seeks cheeffully lady, 24-50, for fun, laughter, friendship, possibly more. 274935

Articulate, well-educated male Anothers, wer-editioned male, 24, 5'9', smoker, enjoys rowing, fishing, entertaximent, seeking thetrigent, lemale, 35-5's, with smillar interests, for good times together, 12,14937 LOG-FIRES & ICE-CREAM Hardsome, independent and romanic male, 30, good career, with own home/cai, good filestyle 5 traveller, seeks that special lady, for inendship.

laughter, conversation and tomance. \$14947 LET'S START AS FRIENDS Male, 31, 62, enjoys country trying 5 city life, seeks intellegent, unpretentious woman, GSOH, for Inendship, possibly more, London, 224884

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PROFESSIONAL MALE Mini-Ts medium build, seeks sady, 40+ has GSOH, who likes sports, during out theatre, cinema, countryside and general outure, to share the good thing in life. West Midlands/Shrop

Shire. 274750 NORTHERN MALE
Youthul 47 (a says here), tal.
lark-back, dr; SOM, seeks stylish factale, for usual things. No leelotallers' 124747

BEST WHEN SHARED BEST WHEN SHARED Romands, easygoing, protessional, genuine male, 39, 510, N/S, bearth/glasses, GSOH, enjoys sports and hockey, badmitton, conversation, socialising, seeks furn-lowing, outgoing female, 25-40, for finendship, possible relationship, 22-4783 KINDRED SPISIT Poor, skiftly bothemian, funny guy, 39, seeks (firstime?) sout male, for film, food, walks and ware. Learnington Spa or any-

wine. Learnington Spa or any where. Previous callers, please cell again. 134791

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Attractive, sirra, young-looking
41, not tall, not rich, has lots of huge and laughter to offer Ms Right, must be sincere, attrac-tive and travel kghtly (no beg-page). SE. 174790 PRESTON MALE

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Professional, tail, opinmiste male,
seeks a fun-foving female, who
doesn't take life too seriously,
for fornes of furn in 98 274592
ROMANTIC, RUSSIAN MAN
Tail, handsome male, middleaged, seeks a perfect, chamming,
British lady, 30-40, to enjoy life
with, London grea, Have a nice
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Thoughthut, considerate windower,
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Intelligent, 19004-006/mg, within inteligent, good-looking, writy male, 28, 6". Into theetre, dining similar lady. 25-45, no lies, for lun, frendship, relationship. West Midlands bul will travel. \$24784 Honest, reliable, hard-working black male, 31, seeks a lemak 25-30, for a long-term relation ship. London area, 25/4602

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ment. GSOH and energy a bonus. 134744 SEEKING LOVE Smeare, athlete male, 38, 56°, seeks Onental lady, for lood, charma, walks, bavel, life long relationship. Gwent based, 12'47'40

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Sociable academic, 42, 510°, mediterranean origin, GSOH, good conversationalist, enjoys nature, history, the arts, travel holidays, seeks educated, independent, gentia lemale, 27-42, no ties, for triendship, possible relationship. 23'4781 SEEKING OTHER HALF

Single, professional male, early 40s, 510°, reasonable looks, into music, criema and theatre, countryside, travel, seeks a single lemate, 30-40, no ties, similar interests, for lasting rela-tionship, Brisiof area, \$74792

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Sim attractive, single man, 46,
Ries walking, cycing, cinema
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Essencion, sim/athletic mate

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Male, has varied interests, seeks older, retired male, age unimportant, for friendship, relation-ALTERNATIVE

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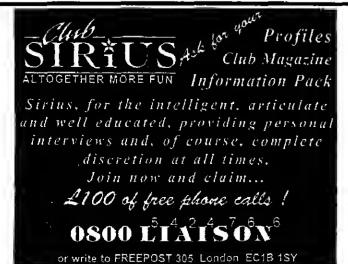
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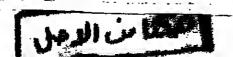


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" Westwood makes rapid ascent of the learning curve

last 16 months, starred as a rookie in the Ryder Cup and swapped his Porsche for a Mercedes. And he is still only 24. Andy Farrell thinks the positives mount up for Lee Westwood because he has developed the knack of never looking at the negatives.

In less time than it takes to beat Greg Norman in a sudden-death play-off, Lee Westwood has become a household name. In Malaysia. When the Malaysian Open champion returned recently to the country where he has a course attachment, he was welcomed by a group children aged between nine and 13 wearing Lee Westwood T-shirts, Lee Westwood caps and who had composed a song in his honour.

"Until they find a world class player of their own," explained Westwood's manager, Andrew Chandler, "they have adopted Lee as a champion to look up to." It helped, naturally, that Westwood had just won three times in five weeks. Yet, though it meant extending a round-the-trip away from home to 48 days, the 24year-old from Worksop enthusiastically went about his sponsor's obligations. And what of the reaction? His answer befitted someone who is both unassuming, but self-confident. "That's all right," he said. "Hopefully, that will be worldwide."

In Australia, television executives promoted an invitation to the Australian Masters in February after Westwood's last-day battle with Norman in Melbourne. He may not yet be a national celebrity in Britain, but he is officially recognised as a good sport who is game for a laugh after his appearance on the segment of the BBC's Sports Review of the Year which is more like, well, Game for a Laugh. In trying to recreate Jeremy Guscott's famous drop-goal for the Lions in South Africa, Westwood's efforts were straight, not something all his fellow contestants managed, but the fact he failed to clear the bar revealed a childhood that was more football than rugby.

Until his father John, a schoolmaster, took him to play at Worksop Golf Club. It was there, a week before Christmas, that Westwood fulfilled his last engagements with the media for the year. With him were his pareots and Chandler, a former by, whose stable also includes the Open runner-up Darren Clarke, Paul McGinley and Andrew Coltait.

on the European money list, he moved on to Melbourne where he made the cut in all four major chambeat Norman at the fourth extra bole achieved that feat, and only two, Col-sunk in now, but it didn't at the time. Parnevik, were also European. (As the next. It was a fantastic five a reference, Westwood twice tied and weeks. I've looked at everybody once heat the player he is most com- and can't see anyone who has had pared with, the Masters champion. a five-week spell like that. Tiger Woods.)

rookies to play well, winning two changes." points in partnership with Nick Falin the last 16 months.



After victory in the volvo Mas-Westwood, who sustained himself ters at Montecastillo in Spain, West-enough to beat most of them. I'm during his lengthy trip with the wood finished second to Mark thought of driving the new Mercedes Calcavecchia in the Sarazen World with which he has replaced his Open in Atlanta, defended his Visa Porsche, had every reason to cele- Taiheiyo title in Japan and after a brate over the festive season. Third 20th place in the Dunlop Phoenix, pionships. Only 15 other players to claim the Australian Open. "It has Montgomerie and Jesper You just go from one tournament to

"Once you win one, you think Then came the Ryder Cup at let's win another one and then it's, Valderrama, where Westwood was I've just won two, maybe I can win one of a number of young European another one. The thought process

Top of his list is the Australian do. You got the impression the Open, not only since it is the higgest combination worked because it nev-title he has won but because of the er occurred to Westwood to be in realisation that it came with beating awe of the six-times major winner. the Great White Shark in home wa-Finally, there were those last five ters: "That I could compete at the weeks which brought Westwood highest level. If you can do it against over £500,000, but more impor- the world No 1, you can do it tantly plenty of world ranking points against anyone. The Ryder Cup (he moved from 64th to 23rd dur- and that has all contributed to it. To ing 1997) and three additions to a become a good player, you have to list of victories which stands at six play with the best in the world. I played with the best players over

those five weeks and was fortunate very happy with the way things are

Not the least of Westwood's attributes is his attitude to play-offs, in which he has a won-three, lostnone record. "It's not a problem when the worst you can do is seeond," he said. He sees no stigma in losing play-offs, as Norman has done more often than he has won them. "It's quite a pice achievement to have, to be honest losing all four majors in play-offs."

'He doesn't see the need to be negative." Chandler confirms. "That's probably the difference between him and all the nthers." So when he had a succession of nearmisses to Jose Maria Olazabal at the Canaries Open, Bernhard Langer in the Benson and Hedges International, and twice to Colin Montgomerie in the European Grand Prix and the Irish Open. Westwood just thought: "They can't keep doing this. If I could keep my confidence then. you're going to win one woner or

"I never actually gave any of those

the day at the B&H." Then there were the two with Montgomerie. "Which two with Monty?" Westwould replie s, ever so slightly mischievously. You mean, when he shot 62 on the last day of the Irish Open and 65 on the last day at Slaley? Both course records. I don't think they went too hat ily. At Slaley, I finished third and in the Irish Open I beat Nick Faldo by two to finish second, took £80,000 home, moved up the world rankings and secured my place in the Ryder Cup team. It didn'ı go thit hadly, did it?"

Still, others might have suffered from the experience. "Having a three-shot lead and losing by seven? It's how you spproach it. I didn't take anything negative out of a perfor-mance like that. If I had shot an 84 nn the last clay, then I would have thought: 'Witht a choker'. But I shot 72 around a difficult golf course, in contention. Il didn't play great, but I held it together while someone was shooting nitte under next to me. I would have beeded to shoot a 65 just to tie, and that's what I scored to set the course decord in the first place here, or that there. I learnt a lot from on the first day. Then, defending Bernhard Langer in the last round tournaments away," he said. Every champion and all, he shoots a 62 to of the Benson and Hedges, more the beginning of the week to learn time they were taken off me, like win. He said in all the papers that than anybody. It was interesting to a few things from the Ryder Cup and Langer shooting the best round of the 65 in this first round of the US see how he plotted his way around I did."

Open was the hest round of his life. hut I'd have to say that the 62 in the last round of the Irish was the best round of his life."

Montgomerie's tendency to raise his game when playing aloogside Westwood is as eloquent an endorsement as the Scot could provide verbally. Westwood will play around a dozen times in America next year hut will not move there full-time. "I've got lots more goals to accomplish in Europe," he said. Like breaking the five-year run at the top of the money list of Montgomerie. who also decided to stay mainly in Europe. "It's a bit of a shame, really," Westwood jokes. "It would have been nice to get rid of him."

If Westwood's laid-back approach suggests he is not taking in what is happening around him, then think again. "I learnt little things from a lot of people, not necessarily things that other people will think are hig things, but they have certainly helped me over the last five weeks. I got into a situation that they were in and thought so-and-so did this

the golf course. When the tiags were tucked away, he would go away from the trouble, to the middle of the greens where he knew he could twopult from. He was very impressive in that last round.

"I enjoyed playing with Faldo at the Ryder Cup. It was impressive to see how professional he was and how unprofessional I was. To say I was like 31st in the world, and he was a former world No I, it was interesting to see the difference between our approaches. I'm not saying I was unprofessional, but it was interesting to see how he and Bernhard Langer used practice rounds, for example. "I played with Langer and up the

first, he walked into the right hand rough and had a look at how it was, then walked over to the left hand rough, while I've walked up the middle, knocked it on the green and holed it for a three and was thinking I was having a great practice round. But he has actually used it as a practice round, preparing for the match. But then he was playing in his eighth Ryder Cup, while I was like, there are 30,000 people here all cheering for us'. But I set out at

putting tip from his coach. Peter Cowen, prior to the Volvo Masters which sparked his winning run. He won't reveal what the tip was, but the important point is how he describes it changing his putting from being "very, very average to reasonable". That suggests there is room for improvement. "You can always improve. Everyone is striving for perfection. Don't think anyone will get there, but I'd like to get fairly close to it. The only way you can do that is by working at it and learning all the time.

"If you take Tiger Woods' driving," long and straight, Tom Watson's iron play, Langer's head. Justin Leonard's putting, Greg Norman's short game. No one has got everything, and they have not got what they have without working on those things really hard."

Work on his chipping and putting, and fitness, will he the priority when he returns to husiness after the Christmas break, First, there was a hurning question. "When do we finally get to see Lee?" asked Westwond's mother, Trish. "After our Christmas party tomorrow," said Chandler, "then he's

weekend fixture guide

3.0 unless stated BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE uniemilne y Hearts ... ibemilan v Klimemock Ingers v Dundes Utol I Johnstone v Celtic... RRST DEVISION
Airdrie v St Mirron
Ayr v Greenock Mc
Dundee v Felidrik
Hamilton v Perick
Stirling v Reith riar v Brechin verness CT v East File ... nusemuir v Livingston her v Oueen of the So THIRD DIVISION Berwick v Dumbertor Cowdenbeath v Ross County

East String v Afor Elest Stirang V Ance.
Montrose v Arbroath Rovers
Ryman LeAgue Premier Division: Chestan v Aylesbury, Dutwich v Kingstonian: Enfeld v Baraham Wood: Gravesend & Nortifield v Baraham Wood: Gravesend & Nortifield v Bransh Standard V Begenham & Rechnidge: St Albans v Hitchin; Sution Util V Cambenton: Vesting V Walton & Heshbur, Flest Division: Abingston Tawn v Thems; Aldershot v Wokingham, Benton v Berthamstad; Billericay v Graje; Bognor Regis v Worthing; Chertey, v Staines; Croydon v Molesey; v Maidenhard Utri; Leyton Pennent v Romford; Ubdeidge v Wernbley; Whytelsafe v

TODAY

Football

v Wivershoe; Edgware v Cheshunt; Eghard v Windsor & Eton; Horsham v Banstead; Hungerford v Bracknet; Leighton v Bed-ford; Meritov v Chalfort St Peter, Northwood v Weaktstone; Tibury v Banking; Tooting & Mitcham v Nietnopolitan Police; Witham v Canvey Island. Third Division: Conhithian Cassatis v Camberley; East Trumck v Aveley; Epoom & Ewell v Croydon Athelic: Flackwell Heath v Hernal Hempstead; Ford v Clepton; Hardway v Homeunch; Hertford v Ware; Kingsbury v Wingste & Finchley; Lewes v Dorking; Southalf v Tring. ley; Lewes v Dorking; Southall v Tring.
UNISOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Alfreton Town v Sishop Auckland; Altrachan
v Leigh RMI; Bernber Bridge v Accrington
Stanley; Frickley v Emley; Gutseley v
Byth Spentans; Lancaster v Banow; Funcom v Colwyn Bey. First Division: Ashton v Crowysden; Belper v Eastwood Town;
Great Harwood v Bradford PA; Lincoln Und
v Flaraley; Stocksbridge PS v Worksop; Trafford v Flariogate Town; Workington v
Netherfield.

Netheriaid.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Ashford Town v Rothwell Town; Cambridge City v Forest Green; Gloucester City v Greesley Rovers; Merthyr v Worcester City; Nuneation v Stirtingbourne; Sallsbury v St. Leonards, Midland Division: Biston v Moor Green; Redditch v Stourbridge; Sollbull Borough v Wisboch; Stafford Pangers v Bedworth, Southern Division: Cindertord v Witney; Fareham v Tonbridge; Fleet v Clevedon; Havani v Newport AFC; Margate v Bashley; Weston-super-Mere v Waterlooville; Weymouth v Darford.

v Dartford.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Consett v Essington; Durham City v Crook; Murton v
Dunston Federation (130): RTM Newcestie v Perrith (20): Segham Red Star v
Stockton; Tow Law v Shidon.

the state of the s

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Armiflorpe Welfare v Denaby: Brigg v Glasshoughton Weltare. Ecolegia? v Curzont Astiton: Matthy MW v Hatfield Marri: Ossett Abson v Ossett Taurr Privana Profestaci Colerataci Cole Town: Pickering v Huckmall, Pontetraci (v North Femby: Selby v Thackley; Sheff NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First

NONTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE FIRS livitsion: Atherion IC Clierles v Atherton I.R. Burscough v Nantwich: Chadderion v Rossendale; Citheriae v Blackpool Rovers. Holker Old Boys v Darwen. Maine Road v Selford: Mossley v Glossop North End: Newcastle Town v Kidsgrove, Parnisbottom v Hassingdon; St Helens v Prescoi Cables. Warringdon v Puuchall GM. Warnington V valural Low INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLANO AL-LIANCE: Barweil v Okdoury Blozwich v Pal-sall Villa: Knypersiey Victoria v Kings Norton; Rocester v Halesowen. Rushall Dhympic v Shifmel; Sandwell Borough v Wednesfield; West Midlands Police v Stapenhilt, Willenhall v Pershore.

Stapenhit, Wilenhall v Persiona.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Dies v Slowmarker, Lowestott v
Wrodram, Newmarket v Bury Town: Softam
v Ely, Sudbury Town v Sudbury Wanderers; Warboys v Histon; Woodbridge v Faliustowe Port & Town. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridoon v Chard; Chippenham v Cahe; Keymsham v Brisington; Mangotsfeld v Brisington; Mangotsfeld v Brisington; Mongotsfeld v Brisington; Odd Down; Teuriton v Bridgwater: Twenton v Elmore: Torrington v Beckwell.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Brockersweet u Luminotron Downton v Bementon

hurst v Lymington, Downton v Bernerio Heath Harleguins; East Cowes Vics Cowes Sports; Gospoil Borough Portsmouth RN: Whitchurch v Andover, WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Chatham v Sheppey (2:5): Corinth-an v Stade Green: Cray v Enth (2:5), Crockenhil v Swentey Funess (235) Faver-sham v Ramsgater Greenwich Bord ugh v Thamesmead (235), Lordswood v Canterbury (2.15): Tunbridge Wells v Herry 9 Bay: VCD Amletic v Bed-anham (2.15): Whit stable VCD Airlietic v Beckenham (2)(5): Wi

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LENGUE First Division: Hotsham v Resigner
Langney v Eastbourne Town, Mile 13ak v
Whitehawk: Peacehaven & Telacur nos v
Salidean: Portfield v Chichester, Re drill v
Horsham YMCA; Wick v Shoreham UNITED COUNTES
LEAGUE Premier Division: Coger tree v
Northampton Spencer: Ford Spirits v
Long Buckby, Hobeach v Boston, Sempston v Wootlon: Spelding v Bournt; Stotloid v Partion: Wellfradmore of v lold v Potton: Wellingborts gh v Desborough Yadey v S & L Corb v PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH LANO LEAGUE: Brora Rangers v Wick Act Idemy. Deveronvale v Buckle Thistie For I N Villam v Cladmacuddh, Fraserburgh v Pete rheat, Huntly v Cove Rangers, Lossemour it v El-gin City, Naim County v Forres Machan-ics, Rothes v Kerit SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-

LEAGUE OF WALES: Carmartin a Town v Cwmbran (230), Inter Cable-Tel Carditl v Barry Town (230) HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: From Harps v Dundak (730), Stigo Rovers v Croghe

Rugby League FRIENDLY MATCH: Huddersheld Rugby Union 3.0 unless stared

ALLIED DUMBAR PREMIERSHIP One: Bristol v Newcastle (2.0); Gioucester v Rich-mond; Harlequirs v London keh; Northamp-ton v Wasps; Sale v Bath, Premiership Two-Fylde v Bedford (2.0), Moseley v Rotherham. JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: Har-JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: Harrogate v Wharfedale (2.15); Leeds v Worcester. London Welsh v Rosslyn Park (2.15); Modey v Otiey; Nottingham v Newbury; Reading v Lydney (2.15); Rugby v Liverpool St Helens. Two North: Hinckley v Sedgley Park (2.30); Lidfield v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30); Numeston v Manchetes (2.30); Sandal v Kendal (2.15); Shetfield v Birmingham/Solthall (2.30); Wasall v Aspatro (2.30); Wrinington Park v Stoutbridge (2.30); Two South: Chetterhem v North Watsham (2.30); Esher v Bodowster (2.15); Henley v Citton Esher v Bridgwater (2.15); Henley v Clifton (2.0); Metropoliten Police v Havant; Psymouth v Camberley (2.30); Tabard v Berking (2.15); Weston-super-Mare v Redruth.

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Di-vision (2.0): Bridgend v Ebbw Vale; Lieneth v Cardiff, Neath v Newport; Swansea v Pon-typridd (5.0), First Division (2.0): Aberavon v Treordny, Bonymsen v Pontypool; Cross Keys v Llandovery, Maesteg v Abertillery (2:30), Merthyr v Newbordge; South Wales. Poice v Pumney, UWIC v Durwant. TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP First Division Forest v Currie; Melrose v Harwott: Netsonans v Boroughmuir; West of Scotland v Henots FP Second Ohvision (2.0); Biggar v Gala, Dundee HSFP v Peebles; Kelso v Gissgow Hawks: Kimemodu v Kinaddy, Preston Lodge v Muselburgh. Third Division (2.0); Aberdeen GSFP v Glenrothes; Gissgow Southern v Ayr; Gordonians v Sekin; Grangemouth v Hähead/Jordanhill; Stewarth Metville FP v Stewarthy.

Cricket SECOND UNDER-19 TEST (Fochville, SA, first day of four, Including play tomorrow, 9em): South Africa v England Basketball

Ice hockey

TOMORROW Swansea v Sarnet.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Burbor Abon v Branagrove; Helsowers Town v Dorchester: Hessings v Bain; Kngls Lyrn v Ahrestone. Middlend Division: Blakennial v Hinckley; Evesham v Braddey; Raunds v Shepshed; Strian Coldfield v Corby; VS Rugby v Racing Warwick; 20th Southern Division: Chlemester v Newport IdW: Cirencester v Beldock; Erni v Yala.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELOW Presider Division: Cork City v Shelbourne 20th, Shemsock Rovers v Killerny City
(305); Linwerstry College Dublin v St Patricks

Att (215). Football 3.0 unless stated FA CARLIND PREMIERSHIP NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST EVISION Birmingham v Tremmers Bredford v Huddersfeld

Rugby League

SECONII IIIVISION
Blackpool v Wrexham
Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth
Chesterfield v York
Fulham v Bristol City [12.0]
Grinneby v Preston
Höllvark v Luton
Northempton v Weissell [12.0]
Oktham v Burnley [1.0)
Southend v Wyconabe (12.0)
Wigan v Carlisto (12.0)
Wigan v Carlisto (12.0)

WOMEN'S UNDER 21 REGIONAL TOUR-NAMENT (MEMOR Keynes National Stadi-um): North v South (10); West v East (10); Midende v North (20).

Basketball

Ice hockey

TODAY'S NUMBER

The age in years of Louise Carroll, who has been named in Great Britain's Olympic hockey development squad. Carroll, who plays for Bonagrass Grove in Dundee, celebrated her 15th birthday on Monday.





FOOTBALL BY GLENN MOORE

All roads had led to Rome from 11 February, when Gianfranco Zola's goal condemned England to their first World Cup defeat at Wemhley. The question for England was whether the ancient Italian capital would open up the direct route to France 98, or lead to elimination in the detour of the play-

Publicly - and, given his inner confidence, probably privately as well - Glenn Hoddle had never doubted England could get the result they needed, Impressive victories in Poland and over Italy in Nantes persuaded others to believe as well and England's task seemed altogether less daunting when Italy's failure to win in Georgia left the coach only a draw away from automatic qualification.

Yet even a point remained a formidable task. Italy had won all 15 previous World Cup ties in Rome and England would be without Alan Shearer.

Until they appeared on the pitch it seemed David Beckham and Gareth Southgate would also be absent too but their "injuries" proved more a Hoddle smokescreen than reality. To be so Machiavellian seemed apt in Italy and England went on to appropriate their hosts' traditional role as well. They defended deep, kept the hall, looked to attack on the counter and were not averse to a hit of gamesmanship.

It needed Tony Adams' experience to hold England togetber in the early stages hut Paolo Maldini then succumbed to an early injury and Paul lenge, then, after Angelo di Gascoigne and Paul Ince took Livio hesmirched his Christian control in midfield. As they name with a devilish tackle on



Roman resistance: Italian defenders attempt to block David Beckham's free-kick during October's World Cup qualifier in Rome

struggling with Gianfranco Zola out of form and out of position, lost their discipline.

The Dutch referee, Mario van der Ende, was said to be a lover of pasta (an allegation his figure substantiated) but he was as impartial as Solomon. First he booked Alessandro del Piero for diving over an Adams chaltoyed with the ball, Italy, already Sol Campbell, he waved the red.

England seemed bound for France and should have been celebrating a famous victory when Ian Wright rounded the goalkeeper, only to hit a post. England momentarily let their concentration slip and, seconds later, a dangerous cross was drifting towards Christian Vieri. The £12m centre-forward rose to meet it... and headed wide. On the bench Hoddle hreathed

of joy with his staff as, barely a

minute later, the final whistle sounded.

Sadly not all those able to tell their grandchildren, in years to come, "I was there" wished they were at the time. Once again England fans reaped the harvest of their reputation. An Italian police force already vengeful and fearful had been further stirred up by two days of often intimidating and lewd public drunkeagain hefore exploding in a jig ness. Their attitude was compounded by poor crowd orated by a steady stream of might prefer others to forget.

of several thousand English supporters, some with malevolent intent, who had bought tickets

through unofficial channels. The chaos tans experienced below the seating inside the stadium, largely caused by Italian police, was matched by the hostility they encountered in them. A first half pock-marked hy hand-to-hand lighting he-

management and the presence missiles thrown between the two sets of fans, was shown around the world.

If, by the end, England's bid to win the World Cup of 1988 seemed on course, their attempt to stage the 2006 tournament did not. That the Italian FA should later be handed the bulk of the blame was little consolation. It was an unforgettable night for English football hut tween lans and police, and dee- one which English football

Komen comes good after a rain omen

Sometimes sporting records appear to be as much a product of those who witness as those who perform - they seem almost willed into being. On the evening of 27 Au-

gust, 40,000 spectators in the King Baudouin Stadium - reshaped and renamed from its days as the Heysel - generated an atmosphere of such expectation that if almost gave off a physical charge. Nine days earlier the ath-

etics followers who had packed into Zurich's Letzigrund stadium had been rewarded with three world records on the track. Now the good people of Brussels wanted their share.

The first serious exercise for their lungs came in the 3.000 metres, where Haile Ge-hreselassie. Ethiopia's world record holder at 5,000 and 10.000m. was seeking to lower the mark set the previous year by a young Kenyan runner, Daniel Komen. Gehrselassie failed, An hour

later, Komen stepped onto the track with the intention of wresting one of Gebrselassie's records away - the 5.000m record.

For all the obvious talent of this gangling 21-year-old, the objective appeared hugely chal-

Komen had fallen away behind Gebreselassie in Zurich as the latter had produced a finishing burst which took him through the line in 12min 41.86sec.

Gehreselassie had taken nearly four seconds off the mark he had set himself on the same track two years earlier.

But when Komen took to the track that night in Brussels, he knew two important things. Firstly, his defeat by Gebrse-Jassie had come just three days after he had won the world 5.000m title in Athens, and his ondly, just three days after his one of the great receptions.

ATHLETICS. ROWBOTTOM

Zurich run he had recovered sufficiently to record 3min 29.46sec for 1500m - faster than Seb Coe, Steve Ovett or Steve Cram ever managed.

And something else had happened. Ten minutes before the race, it had rained. Komen took it as a sign from above.

He was taken through to 3,000 metres by the pacemakers. Then he lengthened his loping stride, and suddenly the mortals behind him were sliding backwards.

The crowd began to clap



5.000m world record

rhythmically. The commentator began to shrick - "Daniel, you need 2.02 you need 2.02 for the last 800. Come on!"

As Komen worked his way down the last 100 metres, his face a grin of effort, the clock seemed to slow in anticipation of his arrival. It stopped at 12min 39.74sec.

"I just knew I was going to break that world record today," Komen said. "It was in the air all night."

It was one of the great perlong legs had heen tired. Sec- formances: fittingly, it received

The monster that ate Paris whets owner's appetite for bigger things

If the old suggestion that outstanding horses are themselves enough to keep racing aficionados warm between the seasons is true then this will not be the winter to be a duvet salesman in either Chantilly, Newmarket or Lambourn.

When Peintre Celehre won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris one smoggy October afternoon, he entranced more than those who had scribbled him down for betting purposes. Racing historians also started jotting his name alongside those such as Sea-Bird II, Mill Reef and Dancing Brave as animals who had proved their greatness in Paris. And the heauty is that this pageant will continue.

Daniel Wildenstein, at 80. may have become bored with the piles of Cezannes, Renoirs and Van Goghs he has accumulated down the years, but the masterpiece with a pulse has revitalised him. It would have been easy for the art dealer and bloodstock owner to then retire Peintre Celebre to stud, but Wildenstein has deemed the curtain should be pulled on the culmination of his years of

hreeding for another season. Peintre Celebre is by the outstanding sire Nureyev, who was disqualified after passing the post first in the 1980 2,000 Guineas. His mother is the Alydar mare Peinture Bleue, thus ensuring there is neuch stamina on the distaff side as there is speed offered by the sire. The outcome of this genetic equation is usually a horse which performs ponderously over eight furlangs

RACING BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

but Peintre Celebre is unique: a thoroughbred with a sprinter's kick who can hold on to his most potent weapon at the end of a middle-distance race - a fusion of Seh Coe and Linford Christie.

These chromosomes allowed the colt to both dominate his contemporaries in the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) and then the older horses in the Arc. After that they called him a monster, which may be true in one sense hut is hardly relevant physically as the little horse, if his name can he used as a guide, is more reminiscent of another excellent practitioner who painted scenes at nearby Montmartre.

As Peintre Celebre scythed five lengths clear to beat the course record by 1.7sec he made the rest look ordinary, which we knew at the time, and were subsequently reminded, could simply not be true. Pilsudski, the runner-up, went on to win the Champion Stakes at Newmarket and the Japan Cup, while the third. Borgia. came within a length of collecting the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Peintre Celebre himself went for a relatively early liedown in preparation for 1998. in which even greater things are expected of him. We will soon know. In about two months' time, on the Chantilly gallops,

> to head back by the State Dee in m



to negate Novotna's challenge The scene was set a for a fasci-TENNIS

Hingis has confidence of youth

nating confrontation of youth and experience, laced with hrilliant net play and breathtaking passing shots. Martina Hingis, only 16 and barely tested during the course of the Wimbledon championships, would have to be at her precocious best if she was to deny Jana Novotna the greatest prize in tennis. Up in the players' guest box,

two faces were studied more closely than the rest. Melanic Molitor and Hana Mandlikova. both from the Czech Republic. did their best to appear relaxed while suppressing nerves. Molitor, Hingis's mother and

coach, had named her daughter Martina after the great Navratilova, scarcely daring to dream that the day would arrive when her Slovakian-born child would triumph on the stage Navratilova had made her own.

Mandlikova was all too familiar with the Centre Court. She bad lost there in two singles finals, against Chris Even in 1981 and Navratdova in 1986.

Heir apparent: Nick Faldo,

lates Tiger Woods after his

when the young American's

first round at the Masters,

inward 30 laid the founda-

tions for a first Green

Jacket at 21 years of age

BY IOHN ROBERTS

Mandlikova had also, as Novotna's coach, suffered agonies in the guest box in 1993 when her compatriot lost to Steffi Graf in the final after serving with a 4-1 lead in the deciding set. Novotna. 28, was the sym-

pathetic favourite of many of the spectators, her tearful episode against Graf now part of Wimbledon lore and her attacking style worthy of gold leaf acknowledgement on the roll of honour. Graf's absence after injuring a knee during the French Open contributed to the popular support for Novotna, a member of the established order attempting to fend off the head girl of a rising generation.

For all that, and the conviction that Hingis's time would come soon enough, the historical context of the Swiss prodiyear earlier, aged 15 years and

women's doubles title. Lottie Dod, the youngest

singles champion, was aged 15

Australian Open title and the youngest world No 1, did not encounter a seeded opponent in the top half of the draw. One of the potential dangers, Iva Majoli, the No 4 seed, at that point the only player to have beaten Hingis since the start of the year (in the final of the French Open), was eliminated before their projected meeting in the semi-finals.

Early in the contest. Novotna. the No 3 seed, threatened to disparch Hingis with the superiority of her grass-court play, serving confidently, making

282 days, Hingis had become the youngest winner of a principal event at Wimhledon, partnering the Czech Helena Sukova to the

years and 285 days when she won the title in 1887. The Cheshire cotton-broker's daughter was only required to win three matches, including the challenge round. Hingis, the holder of the



Life's a doddle: Martina Hingis, the Swiss tennis prodigy, models, exclusively for the Independent, a replica of the apparel women in 1887 by Lottie Dod, the only player younger than Hingis to win the Wirabledon women's singles title

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

volleying with a finesse her opponent had rarely seen before.

One of the qualities which has separated Hingis from the majority of competitors, since she burst on the international scene as a 12-year-old winner of the French Open junior title, is

deep, low approach shots and the ability to think her way through tactical problems.

Having steadied her serve.

she began to counter her opponent's movements to the net with a variety of precise ground-

and was feeling the effects of an abdominal strain. Yet Novoina survived five

break points in the opening game of the final set and took a 2-tt lead, only for Hingis to strokes. Novoina's strategy re-transform the threadbare lawn mained unchanged, even into a canvas for her boldest though she was being picked off strokes, prevailing, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Tiger roars into history to win first Masters with barnstorming demolition of Augusta

It took something spectacular to push Tiger Woods out of the neadlines after the first round of the 61st US Masters. "Huston, the eagle has landed" was the verdict on a day when little

appeared to be going to plan. Fearing record low scoring they were not wrong), the Green Jackets who run the tournament made sure Augusa National was playing hard and fast. A strong breeze made conditions even trickier. Like the old

days, said the old-time pros. The modern-day pros did what modern-day pros do best. Most of them moaned about not the holder, (right) congratubeing able to break 80, but a few got on with it and still managed something extraordinary. Onc. called John Huston, holed his

looking 70, two under par, hut this was the day the 21-year-old proved he was the real thing, not a marketing mirage.

The publicity surrounding Woods' first major championship as a professional was overwhelming, except for this hrilliant young man. The impact he had made since turning pro six months before extended far outside the golfing world. While Jack Nicklaus was lauding the youngster as his natural successor. Time magazine had already proclaimed Woods as one of the 25 most influential people in America. After a year in the game, a report suggested he had brought \$650m (£410m) of

"new money" into golf. As an awed Nicklaus adsecond shot at the last for an ea-mitted: "Not only does he live gle two and took the lead with up to his publicity, he outpera 67. Woods scored an innocent- forms it." But not for the first

GOLF BY ANDY FARRELL

nine holes. At the turn in the first round, Woods was four over par. Going nowhere; heading for a missed cut. Just like his playing partner, none other than the defending champion, Nick Faldo, who three-putted

five times in a front nine of 41. Even in such a reflective sport as golf - perhaps more so since there is too much time for an instinctive reaction - to turn a bad situation to good in midround is the stuff of only the finest of champions, Faido managed it to an extent, coming home in 34, but he must have been left with feelings of inadequacy beside Woods' inward 30.

The back-nine record at Au-

gusta is 29 and it was one of the and tried to carry that feeling few records not to fall to Woods in the last 63 holes of the tournameht. Aligning his power greens, Woods did exactly what people leared to a course that is vulnerable to that combina-

He immediately birdied the 10th hole by sinking a 15-foot putt. At the short 12th, he chipped in for another and merely two-putted for a hirdiefour at the 13th. He reduced the par-five 15th to a drive, a wedge and a four-foot eagle putt and holed from 12 feet for a hirdie

It was the two-iron shot off the 11th tee that changed the of 270, 18 under par, and by a course of destiny. "I needed the right club to feel the correct position of my golf swing." Woods said. "I found it with that shot never in the fashion I did."

with me all week." A 66 followed in round two

as Woods took the lead and he with a magical touch around the extended it to nine strokes with a 65 on the Saturday. The Augusta gallery - been there, done that, seen them all - streamed out of the gates, stunned into silence. Colin Montgomerie. having heen beaten hy nine strokes by Woods that day, said simply: "There is no way humanly possible that he is going lose this tournament."

A 69 on the final day and Woods had become the voungest winner of the Masters at 21 years, three months and 15 days, with the lowest score record margin of 12 strokes. "I've always dreamt of winning the Masters," Woods said, "hut

Mini marvel: Peintre Celebre breaks clear to win the Prix de l'Arc de Trinmphe in October Photograph: Sporting Life

العكاب الامل

Rugby has entered its age of Enlightenment, an era in which clipboard-wiclding coaches are paid spectacular amounts of money to develop fitter, faster players and foolproof tactical hlueprints under scientific conditions. Statistics are the measure of all things; bleep tests, tackle counts, aerobic fitness levels and kicking charts have replaced the chicken vindaloo, the sly left hook and half a dozen verses of "Get Em Down, You Zulu Warrior" as the currency of the professional game. Happily for those of us who

flatly refuse to apply the Crifique of Pure Reason to 80 minutes worth of rough and tumble on a Saturday afternoon, the union code remains reassuringly adept at consigning the best-laid plans to the garbage can and knocking the eleverest of Clever Dick theories into the middle of next week. On 28 June, in the forbidding surroundings of an emotion-charged King's Park in Durban, Martin Johnson and his Lions flew in the face of presumption, hypothesis and plain common sense to beat the Springboks 18-15 and thus become only the second British Isles party this century to win a series on South African soil,

Ian McGeechan, the Lions' coach, called it "15-man rugby without the ball"; Roh Andrew, the former England outside-half who had tasted both success and failure as a Lion, politely pronounced that the tourists had won the game "on their arses"; and John Bentley, who played on the right wing that day, admitted as recently as last month: "I've gone through the tape



Stop the Bok: John Bentley halts Pieter Rossouw

match-winning drop goal deep into the final five minutes, let rip in the dressing-room during the interval and demanded that the Lions "play some rugby for once", his colleagues stared blankly at him as though to say: "Jerry, we'll consider it if and when we get to touch the ball."

Quite simply, the Lions produced one of the great rearguard actions in rugby history. Having tackled their way to glory in the Cape Town Test seven days previously, they suspected for them with fists clenched, eyes glazed and teeth bared. When the tourists reached King's Park, they knew they were on the menu; the pasmany times and every time I signate rugby folk of Natal bad watch it, I think the Boks are transformed the stadium into a way for Guscott's coup de grâce. bound to score." When Jeremy buge concrete snarl and when

warriors hurst on to the greensward, it seemed less like pre-match entertainment than the shape of things to come.

Surc enough, the Springboks ran in tries through Joost van der Westhuizen, Percy Montgomery and Andre Joubert (the first an almost inevitable result of a prolonged siege of the Lions' line, the second and third the consequences of rare defensive errors by Alan Tait and Bentley respectively). Yet neither Montgomery nor an the Boks would come looking out-of-sorts Henry Honiball could maximise the advantage by kicking a single goal and that glaring frailty allowed Neil Jenkins, the human radar, to keep the tourists in touch with five penalties, thus paving the

Many rugby revisionists.

Guscott, purveyor of the famous several hundred dancing Zulu startled by the pace and panache of the All Black and Springbok squads who toured here during the autumn, now consider the Lions to have been false prophets, a courageous but distinctly fortunate side who stuck rigidly to a pragmatic but profoundly limited game plan and capitalised mercilessly on self-inflicted Springbok wounds, Such a view misses the whole point, of course. When you play sport at the top level - and levels do not come any more elevated than a Lions Test series - you climb the mountain by whatever route happens to be available. When Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing conquered Everest, they did it with the aid of oxygen. Did that make their

achievement any the less wor-

thy of celebration?

BOXING BY KEN JONES

Tyson bites the hand that feeds as legend fades

A few hours before Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson met in Las Vegas last June for the World Boxing Association heavyweight championship I fell in with a man who thought it likely that Tyson would be disqualified.

This did not strike me as the way to bet but sensation was soon upon us. No longer fighting in accordance with precepts that were central to his violent advancement, unable to handle a contest so rough that both men received stern warnings in the first two rounds, Tyson lost all control and was disqualified on his stool at the end of the third for hiting Holyfield's ears.

The extent of Tyson's folly was not immediately apparent. What the bell is going on in there?" one veteran ringsider broke from a clinch to stomp angrily around the ring. "Jesus, he's hitten a slice out of Holyfield's ear," another said.

On our feet, straining for a better view of quite extraordinary proceedings we were further shocked when Tyson after the firing of a shot. charged across the ring to push Holyfield in the back. Astonishingly, Mills Lane, the tough little circuit judge from Reno who took over as referee when Mitch Halpern withdrew following a protest from the Tyson camp, allowed the fight to continue after indicating that he had deducted two points from the crazed challenger.

Before Holyfield could attempt the knock-out he now felt confident of delivering, Tyson bit him again. At the bell Lane first examined Holyfield then crossed the ring to inform Tyson that it was over. In the pandemonium that followed security guards and a beauty queen.



exclaimed when Holyfield Damage done: Close-up of Holyfield's bitten ear

Photograph: jed jacobsohn/Allsport

police wrestled with Tyson and his entourage and then plunged into the audience to make arrests. Shortly afterwards the MGM Casino was closed off

Nothing in boxing's turbulent history had matched the dishelief caused by Tyson's pretty obvious emotional collapse. It was not just the aura of invincibility that had slipped from him but the notion of a street fighter's grim purpose.

With his warrior instinct, superior hoxing skills and vast experience, Holyfield, as when stopping Tyson seven months earlier, was equipped to exploit the former undisputed champion's fallibility under fire, the confusion caused in him by violent transgressions that had led to imprisonment for the rape of

If himself running the risk of retribution for rough house tactics, especially such dangerous use of the head that the challenger was stunned by a butt and cut over his right eye early in the second round, Holyfield put paid to Tyson's reputation as one of the greatest heavyweights in history.

An indefinite suspension by the Nevada State Athletic Commission is unlikely to end Tyson's career - a third match with Holyfield would unquestionably be the richest of all time -hut the perception of him has altered.

A vivid memory is the rage in Tyson's eyes when fulfilling an obligation to Showtime, the American cable television network that put out the contest. consternation in the division, Pointing to a gash in his right hut he was only at his best when eyelid. Tyson snarled: "How the going was good.

much was I expected to put up with? He was hutting me all the time. He butted me in the first fight. I was left with only one eye. My career was on the line. I've got kids to hring up. Who cares about me and my children? The referee wouldn't listen. I had to retaliate."

This from the ghetto fugitive who was programmed to spread terror throughout the heavyweight division. For once conspicuous by his

silence, Don King confined himself to a brief appearance on Jelevision. "Mike was ready to fight. I don't why they sterned it," he said lamely. The truth was that Tyson had been found out. No heavyweight has hit with more power or caused more

England bask briefly in the glory of Edgbaston's false promise

By the end of the summer, with the familiar sound of crowing Aussies assaulting our eardrums, it was hard to remember much about it but there was one moment in 1997 when everything in cumbed to a swinging ball. the garden of English cricket

England, thrashed in four consecutive Ashes series, marched into the first Test in Birmingham on 5 June and won. Not only that, they won brilliantly. By nine wickets; and with a full day to spare.

How we relished the moment. "Ashes coming home" a euphoric Edgbaston crowd sang. In the light of what happened subsequently, with normal service resumed and a fifth straight series loss added to the record, it is almost embarrassing to recall that even those who purport to take a sober view of the game were tempted to believe it.

Then again, who would not? After 19 overs of an extraordinary first morning, Australia were 54 for 8! True, the tourists were underprepared, badly out of form and England, heartened by victory in the Texaco Trophy games, sensed they just might strike an early blow. But, even

so, this was pinch-yourself stuff. Yet it did not end there. Following the startling brilliance of Darren Gough and Andrew and lunch the following day. By Caddick, sharing eight scalps as 3pm on the fourth afternoon, Australia - 118 all out - suc-

CRICKET BY JON CULLEY

came the majesty of Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe. Coming together as England

faced their own crisis at 50 for 3, these young batsmen played so well that comparisons with the greats were not, for once, misplaced. Outstanding after tea on the opening day, they were as good if not better on the second, when the first session yielded 135 runs. Hussain. whose driving was an absolute joy, hecame only the seventh Englishman to make 200 against Australia. The partnership, a record for England's fourth wicket in Ashes Tests, re-

alised 288 at a run a minute. Even then, England's victory was not assured and a third great effort needed. Australia, for all their troubles, did not roll over. Mark Taylor, their beleaguered captain, revealed the immense depth of his character with a century that not only saved his job but, for a while, looked as though it might even save the match.

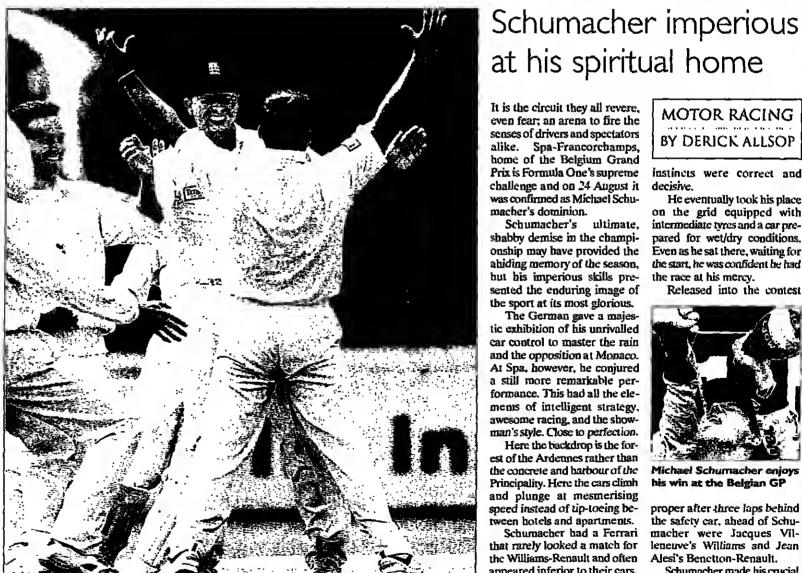
No Australian wicket fell between 11.45 on the Saturday when a huge hut happily brief had to wake up...

thunderstorm broke, Australia were 43 ahead and with five wickets still in hand.

In the past, England might have lost their chance but Gough, Robert Croft and company had discovered the parience and discipline many thought beyond them. And then Mark Ealham suddenly caught the mood, taking the last three Aussie wickets for no

runs in 10 deliveries. England were left needing 118 runs to win and more than a day in which to get them, an order which, with care. even they could achieve comfortahly. But having sunk the knife into Australian flesh, Michael Atherion was bent now on twisting it. With the extra hour at England's disposal, the captain determined that the job would be finished not before a half-empty ground on Monday

morning hui there and then. Appropriately with his most trusted aide. Alec Stewart, at his side, it was Atherton who delivered the coup de grace, the two matching one another in a passage of hravura haiting that ensured not only defeat hut humidiation, in 87 minutes, for their opponents. Shortly hefore 7pm, Edghaston was engulfed in an explosion of joy and dreams of a giorious, vintage summer began. Such a pity we



Birmingham brio: Michael Atherton rushes to congratulate Darren Gough as wickets tumble on the first morning of the first Test at Edgbaston

Pride of Europe humbled by the worst team from antipodean élite



Get a grip: Bradford's Paul Mediey is held back by the Auckland defence in a revealing club competition

In time, the World Club Championship might he seen as an awakening for the British game on a par with the Kangaroo tour of 1982. While that visit exposed how far behind Britain had fallen at national level, the WCC cast the same unflattering spotlight on standards at club level. The game that argued this

most forcefully was not one of the monumental thrashings that British teams suffered at the hands of antipodean opposition, but the Bradford Bulls' fourpoint defeat by Auckland at Odsal on the second weekend of the competition.

To put it hrurally, we knew that the Halifaxes and Oldhams were heading for some dreadful beatings, but the Bulls were a very different proposition; they had already estahlished themselves as the dominant team in European Super League and they were, after all, facing the bottom side

down under. Auckland had sacked their coach. John Monie, and had proved incapable of winning games when the pressure was on. The sheer power of a Bradford icam urged on by a big

in the equivalent competition

RUGBY LEAGUE BY DAVE HADFIELD

home crowd would be surely too much for them - and a positive result could even prove a turning point for Britain in the WCC as a whole.

When Auckland had Syd Eru sent off for a high tackle towards the end of the first half, Bradford's task looked highly manageuble, despite an 8-2

deficit at the interval. However, with too many players below their hest, they

struggled to get hack on terms and then lost the match 20-16 to a late try from Paul Staladi. Bradford finished up losing

all six of their group games - the three away matches by big margins - damning evidence that. while they might be miles ahead of the opposition in Britain, they simply did not rate in world

The quirky nature of the tournament meant that they still qualified for the quarter-finals, where they were beaten for a third time by Auckland, 62-14.

No British team reached the semi-finals, which prompt-

ed plenty of much-needed soulsearching about the shortcom-

ings of the game here. Bradford drew their own lessons from the humiliation. Last season's squad would have been strong enough to make them favourites for the Super League title in 1998, but they moved to address the weaknesses exposed by the WCC, signing a vastly experienced on-field general in Shaun Edwards and a middle-back of gen-

uinc pace in Tevita Vaikona. Their British rivals might live to regret the wake-up call that Auckland gave them.

senses of drivers and spectators alike. Spa-Francorchamps, home of the Belgium Grand Prix is Formula One's supreme challenge and on 24 August it decisive. was confirmed as Michael Schu-

at his spiritual home

macher's dominion. Schumacher's ultimate, shabby demise in the championship may have provided the ahiding memory of the season, hut his imperious skills presented the enduring image of the sport at its most glorious.

It is the circuit they all revere,

even fear; an arena to fire the

The German gave a majestic exhibition of his unrivalled car control to master the rain and the opposition at Monaco. At Spa, however, he conjured a still more remarkable performance. This had all the elements of intelligent strategy. awesome racing, and the showman's style. Close to perfection.

Here the backdrop is the forest of the Ardennes rather than the concrete and harbour of the Principality. Here the cars climb and plunge at mesmerising speed instead of tip-toeing between hotels and apartments.

Schumacher had a Ferrari that rarely looked a match for the Williams-Renault and often appeared inferior to their cars, hut given a little assistance from the elements he had the capability to tilt the balance.

He had also an affinity with Spa which stretched back to his dehut, in 1991. He was seventh on the grid that day and few doubted Formula One's next superstar had arrived. He registered his maiden victory at the track 12 months later, was second in 1993, first across the line only to be disqualified in 1994 and winner in the two subse-

quent seasons. This year the heavens emhraced his desires again. Torrential rain brought a spectacular change to the set just before the start, but while others routinely fitted wet tyres and drove out of the pits. Schumacher hung back. He had a hunch the downpour might be brief. Not for the first time, his

MOTOR RACING BY DERICK ALLSOP

instincts were correct and He eventually took his place on the grid equipped with

intermediate tyres and a car pre-

pared for wet/dry conditions.

Even as he sat there, waiting for

the start, he was confident he had the race at his mercy. Released into the contest



Michael Schumacher enjoys his win at the Belgian GP

proper after three laps behind the safety car, ahead of Schumacher were Jacques Villeneuve's Williams and Jean Alesi's Benetton-Renault.

Schumacher made his crucial moves on the fifth lap. First, he squeezed inside Alesi, then forced Villeneuve, another gifted, courageous driver, into meek surrender. By the end of the lap the 28-year-old former champion led the Belgium Grand Prix by six seconds. After another four laps he was 34 seconds clear.

In the stands and along the muddy hanks, they neclaimed Schumacher's prominence and one of the great drives of our time. At the time it seemed he would go on to win a third title, that his resourcefulness would deny Williams' technical advantage. In the event he failed, proving, as he suggested, that he was not Superman

That late summer afternoon in Betgium, you would have

Exiles are excused from trial as Scots cast wide net

Battered by the Wallabies and blitzed by the Springboks, the Scottish selectors have decided to return to first principles by holding a good, old-fashioned trial match to help them

gauge form and fitness. But, as Chris Hewett reveals, there are complications. Not everyone will be there.

Scotland's bemused and befuddled coaching hierarchy yesterday climbed into their time machine, pressed the "past" buttoo and reappeared in faintly familiar territory long abandoned by European rugby folk: the land of the national trial. Trial? Most Scots already believe their Test team to be guilty on all counts following a couple of criminal displays against Australia and South Africa. but there is at least one mitigating circumstance - the avoidance of ner," said the former internaan unboly row with Eogland's leading clubs.

The midweek match will take place at Watsonians' Myreside ground in Edinburgh on 7 January and will be restricted to home-based players. Given that it to bottom club Bristol and a large contingent of top-rank- Richmond's foray into the wild ing exiles - Alan Tait, Gregor acres of Gloucester are the Townsend, Andy Nicol, Dave highlights of the Premiership Hilton and Doddie Weir among programme. Newcastle stick them - will be busily preparing for important Allied Dunbar Premiership matches on 10 and 11 January, any attempt to involve them on trial business full-back, remains outside in the II isn't over until the Tigers stop would inevitably have led to chilly stuff, while Richmond some angry posturing and a flurry of cross-border insults.

Richie Dixon, the national an Johnson. coach, emphasised that the trial was aimed at "aspiring" players who needed a "high-intensity stage" on which to impress, adding intriguingly: "We want to make it clear that every position is there to be compet-

While it is inconceivable that the Scots will omit the best of their English-based talent for the international against Italy at the end of next month, Dixon's comments were clearly aimed at destroying the comfort zone How the mighty are fallen.

London Leopards...... 122

Leicester added basketball for

the first time to the British tra-

dition of Boxing Day sport yes-

terday. But, the English, at

least, rarely had a look in as the

London Leopards grudgingly

travelled to the Granby Halls for

the Budweiser League fixture

Donewald and his Leopards'

counterpart, Billy Mims, used

their full quota of five Americans

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The Riders' coach Bob

BASKETBALL

Leicester.

and won.

Ski Hotline

North America.

inhabited by his Premiership players. If the trial is a success, it will not be long before the Scots make it a "no show, no

The Welsh selectors, meanwhile, are relishing the opportunity to contrast and compare their two outstanding candidates for the mythically-charged No 10 shirt in this seasoo's Five Nations. Swaosea, the league leaders, take on Pontypridd, the champions, at St Helen's today and if ever a battle within a battle was likely to decide the outcome, it is the one between Arwel Thomas and Neil Jenkins.

Thomas, certainly the most naturally gifted stand-off to emerge in Wales since Jooathan Davies, lost his Test place to the more soberly orthodox Jenkins for last month's match with New Zealand at Wembley, but according to Garin Jenkins, the Swansea captain, he is close to his impish best. "He is coming right back to top form and when he plays at that level, he is an out-and-out match-wintional hooker. If history has anything to do with it. Thomas will come up smelling of roses. Pontypridd have not won at Swansea since 1973.

In England, Newcastle's viswith the line-up that lost narrowly to Agen in last weekend's European Conference semi-final. Tim Stimpson, the Lions must cope with Gloucester's new signing, the Army wing Bri-

Interestingly, Stimpson is not the only Lion feeling frozen out today. None of the 36 tourists who squeezed past the Springboks in South Africa last summer - 40 if you include the replacements - have been included in a World XV selected by correspondents of the French paper, L Equipe. What is more, there are oo Frenchmen either. New Zealand contribute 10 of the side, with the rest made up of Springboks.

Reluctant Leopards finish with a flourish

each for the first nine minutes, By

then Leopards led 36-24 after

weathering an opening three-

to the League to postpone the

game, provoking a typical re-

sponse from fellow American

Donewald. "Boxing Day isn't

even a hotiday in the States.

Maybe he's a born-again Eng-

Riders, on the fringes of the

play-off quarter-finals, showed

their strength and frailties as

three of their first five baskets

were from long range as they

SNOW REPORT

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But noder the basket Billy

lishman," he said.

opeoed a 13-5 lead.

Mims unsuccessfully applied

point storm from Leicester.



Austin Healey clears Leicester's line during their 22-21 win over Saracens at Vicarage Road yesterday

Photograph: Keith Dobney

Stransky settles score after early shenanigans

David Llewellyn Saracens

growling - and Leicester certainly had the drop on the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders Saracens. A last-minute drop goal by Joel Stransky this second attempt in the space of 60 seconds) provided a thrilling finish to what had been a game of scraps, on and off the ball, and earned the South African 17 of his side's points. It was Leicester's first away win in the

league since December 1996. If there was too much careless kicking, there were also patches of stunning play by both sides. The two defences did well and Leicester, fielding a full set of international forwards

from the start for the lirst time. did not find it easy against a combative Saracens pack.

The sides thundered into

each other from the kick-off. eree, Ed Morrison, spent as much time with the whistle out of his mouth lecturing the varblowing for infractions.

at Vicarage Road - the largest crowd to watch a club game in England outside Leicester. Saracens' Paul Wallace and

Leicester's Graham Rowntree were shown a yellow card after some skulduggery at a scrum; earlier Danny Grewcock and Tigers' captain Martin Johnson had been carded for shenanigans after a brawl broke out io two different places on the pitch.

seemed intent on getting involved, the impressive Sarries flanker Alex Bennett got dangerously close to a try. The with or without the ball. The ref-resulting penalty after the brawl went Leicester's way and a

good position was lost. It took both teams more ious warring factions as he did than half an hour to turn their attention to some serious rugby. Toping to the line when he was But it was great entertain- By then Saracens, defending a stopped in his tracks by a shud- because Stransky's fourtb ment for the 14,291 supporters run of 10 matches unbeaten in dering Darren Garforth tackle the League, had edged ahead courtesy of two penalties and a drop goal by Michael Lynagh, to

two Joel Stransky goals. The pace then picked up and there was some marvellous stuff as both sides hammered away at each other. Saracens' Ryan Constable and Brendon Daniel put in chips for each other as they made inroads down the left

but Waisale Serevi picked up the

line before kicking clear to lift the pressure.

Another penalty, Stransky's third success in four attempts. levelled the scores in the first minute of the second half, but Saracens could have taken the lead. François Pienaar was galand, worse, he lost the ball in

Seven minutes later Stransky run a stunning angle before slipping the ball to his fellow South African Fritz van Heerden and the lack bullocked his way over

for a try. Stransky converted. Initially Saracens flagged but they eventually caught the Tigers. The ball emerged from a ruck and ended up in the

White most of the forwards - linal kick ahead, raced across - hands of their Australian centhe width of the pitch behind his tre Ryan Constable. He skinned the Tigers' defence for a try converted by Lynagh.

Three minutes later came Saracens second. Bennett, burst clear, found Richard Wallace. and the winger found another gear as he raced to the line.

Lynagh failed with the con-

penalty, and that drop goal, settled things.

Orop goal Stransky.

Saracens: G Johnson | M Singer, 38-40 and 78), B Daniet, R Constable, S Havenscroft, R Wallsca: M Lyriagh, K Bracken; B Grau (A Civer, 64), G Cituite, P Wallsca, P Johns, D Gewoock, A Bernett (B Sturmern, 80), F Planaar, T Diprose (capit)
Leleaster: A Leeds; A Healey, J Overend, S Potter, L Lloyd; J Stransky, W Serev; G Rownbee | P Feshwalter, 73, R Codseril, D Garfortin, M Johnson (capit), F van Heerden, M Corry (D Addison, 73), N Back, E Miller (L Moody, 54).

tor fleet for what is both a tra-

ditional Boxing Day spectacle

And the day was not without

incident. Local boat Weowna

Winna, skippered by Robert

Markie of Middle Harbour

Yacht Club, was forced to retire

early, while a second yacht, Max

Prentice's She's Apples II, was

hit by a spectator boat. The vacht

returned to the host Cruising

Yachi Club of Australia in Rush-

cutters' Bay, completed repairs

and restarted. The bowman,

Bruce Kerridge, said the people

on the powerbrat "just froze" as

the collision became inevitable.

P W O L F APts 8 7 0 1 216 125 14 6 6 0 0 180 109 12

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Division One: Blackwood (10) 10, Caerphilly (24) 62 Blackwood: Try Johnstone: Correction Lay, Penaities Lay Caerphilly. Tines C Brown 3, I Philips 2, R Bdgood, Bray, Davey, penaity, Savastano: Conversions Davey 8.

PWOLE

Swansee 6 5 0 1 228 105 31 5 20 Pontypridd. 6 4 1 1 193 97 25 5 16 Carditi 8 4 1 1 170 135 17 1 14

CLUB MATCH: Hartlepool Rovers 12

3 176 169

and the finale to the Southern

Cross series.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Saints slated by Wigan's onslaught

Peter Aspinall Wigan. St Helens

The word on the terraces at Central Park yesterday suggested that many St Helens fans had boycotted this festive friendly because their side was so weak. The evidence out on the paddock rather proved that their decision was based on common sense as Wigan ran in 10 tries and conceded none.

The St Helens team - basically an Academy outfit containing li teenagers - was missing 13 regular senior players, iocluding Chris Joynt, Bobbie Goulding as well as their new £350,000 record signing. Paul Sculthorpe.

Wigao, in stark contrast, were parading two new signings, the Australians Mark Bell and Tony Mestrov, and while they also lacked a handful of notable pedigree players - Tony Smith and Denis Betts to name but two - the gulf in class became apparent very quickly.

After Wigan had two tries disallowed, Jon Clarke rounding off a splendid 80m surge from Jason Robinson, Henry Paul added another try when he glided through some fragile defence and while the Saints scrum-half. Paul Wellens, knocked over a penalty Wigan were soon back in the danger zone, Andy Farrell slipping his marker at the scrum before putting Craig Murdock over on the stroke of balf-time.

The second half began with four tries in the opening 10 minutes - two for Robinson, with Kris Radlinski and Garv Connolly the other scorers. Danny Ellison and Lee Gilmour crossed for a further brace as Saints wilted, Ellison grabbing another following tremendous approach work from the prop Neil Cowie.

Saints' stand-in captain. Anthony Sullivan, tried valiantly to motivate his players but the game had been out of St Helens' grasp ever since the teams were version and it was a crucial miss read out.

The game represented a welcome return to Wigan for the new coach John Monie, who took over six weeks ago, while the 20-year-old winger, Roh Smyth, was playing his first game for 17 months.

Wigan: Radinski; Robinson, Connolly, Bell, Ellison; Paul, Murdock; Cowie, Clarke,

St Helense Johnson; Stuart, Halg, Cross, Sulivan; Barrow, Wallens, Latham, Anderson, O'Nel Pickavance, Pereira, Hammond, Sub-stitutes: Newal, Hemilton, Arkwright, Price, Newall, Pimblett.

British interest in the race is

focused on the all-Royal Navy

crew aboard the 43-foot Quest,

which will be hoping for mod-

erate conditions to produce its

for Great Britain in the Atlanta

Olympics, is the principle helms-

man on Syd Fischer's 50-foot

Ragamuffin. Fischer is com-

pleting his 29th Sydney to Ho-

bart, Beadsworth his first, as

Ragamuffin. lead yacht in the

second-placed three-boat Aus-

tralia tcam, looks for a big re-

sult to overtake the leading

~ Stuart Alexander

trio of boats from China.

Andy Beadsworth, who sailed

best performance.

Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

Rieper wear t

erees and

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 i feel I am coming home. Jürgen Klinsmann on re-signing for Tottenham Hotspur.

 It's nice when you reach middle age and can go in another direction. Delia Smith, celebrity cook and now major shareholder at First Divi-

sion Norwich City. To me, he's the best allround player in Britain. Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United on the recuperating Roy Keane.

 I hope people know what we've been through. Karen Smithies, the captain of England, on her team's exhausting schedule in the women's World Cup in India.

SAILING

were out manoeuvred by Leopards' Makebha Perry, Robert Youngblood and John White. White's three-pointer gave Leopards' their first lead at 27-24, an advantage they extended to 54-34. But the London team hit cruise control 100 early as Boon, Waldron and Singleton dragged the Riders back

HOCKEY

to trail 77-72. Leopards regrouped and the Riders revival was ended by an Eoglishman. Jason Crum's three-point play inspiring Perry and Eric Burks to close the Leopard's performance with a display of party-time dunks.

Lar Upp Jan Jan

Snow Reports supplied by Ski Hotline

Midlands seek to regain title The Women's Under 21 Terri- Players will only be available. After a perfect start from Svd-

torial Champiooship starting tomorrow at the Milton Keynes National Stadium will be missing several of England's young stars, including those in the Indoor Training Squad preparing for the defence of England's European title. Nevertheless, the passion and commitment seen at this annual Christmas-time event is likely to be as strong as ever.

The first ediet from Australian Chris Spice, the recently strictions on the availability of players receiving Lottery money.

with the agreement of their National Senior coaches.

East will struggle to retain their title which is likely to pass back to the Midlands, the only other territory to have woo it. Midland's squad is liberally

scattered with players with National League experience including Sutton's Jackie Bull and Natalie Hannah and Olton's Sally Wright and five of their squad have already played in the England Under-2t side. appointed EHA Director of The game on Monday morning Performance, has placed re- between the two territories should settle this year's title.

It took Ingvall, who has

The sunshine and 15-knot north-easterly attracted what was said to be a record specia-

Ingvall propels Nicorette into early lead

ney Harbour, Sweden's Ludde Ingvall in Nicorette took the early lead in the 630-mile Sydney to Hobart Race yesterday.

turned the former Whitbread contender Charles Jourdan into a downwind specialist, a little time to overhaul the higgest boat in the 115-strong fleet. George Snow's Brindahella. hut once under spinnaker and outside the heads guarding the entrance to the harbour, he started to pull away.

SPORTING DIGEST

American football ALOMA BOWL: Washington 51 Michigan State 23.

Baskethall NBA: Utah 107 Houston 103; Chicago 90 Marris 80. BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester 108 Lon-

Cricket

An investigation led by the former in-dian captain Kapil Dev will take place into the abandonment of the second one-day international between India and Sn Lanka at Indore on Christmas Day after the pitch was declared too dangerous for play after three overs. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the International Cricket Council, said: "The abandonment of the match due to unfit condition anywhere in the world is deplorable." The third one-day international is to be played at Goa on

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP Semi-final (New Delhi): Australia beat India by 18 AUSTRALIA
B Clark Ex. b Bham
J Broadbent run out
If Jones Ibw b Bhatt M Gossku b Bhati K Robon not out ... S Calver c Harrinshnan b Rau O Magno st Jam b David C Mason st Jam b David J Pace not east

Excitation in the subject of the contract of t

Fall: 1-66, 2-80, 3-63, 4-88, 5-113, 6-121, Bowling: Margaret 4-0-13-0; Chauthary 4-2-7-0; Rau 5-1-19-1; David 6-0-21-0; Bhati 7-0-25-3; Kulkanv 6-0-21-0 INOIA tA Jain b Mad

C Ahr low b Fitzpatrick S Hankrishnan run out Shaw run out Bhatt b Frizpetnick P Chaudhary not out. ... D Kulkami b Mason.... N David not out Fall: 1-8, 2-34, 3-70, 4-72, 5-75, 6-93, 7-103, 8-104, 9-104

A Chopra c Jones b Fitzpatnick......

Bowling: Fi(zpatrick 7-1-18-3; Calver 4-1-18-0; Mason 7-1-10-0; Rokun 5-0-22-0, Magno 5-0-22-1, Fahey 2-0-12-0 The Essex all-rounder Grahem Napier produced a superb spell of in-swing bowling to take four wokets in 15 balls and lead England Under 19 to victory by 47 runs over South African Schools in Port Elizabeth on Christians Eve Earlier the England capitain. Owais Shah, was his sides top-scorer with a classy 67. TOUR MATCH (Port Elizabeth, one day): England Under-9 268 (O A Shah 67: 50 overs): South Ahroan Schools 221 (M van Wyh 60, J Kent 58: G R Napier 4-43, 445 overs). England Under-19 won by

Vince Bartram has returned to Arsenal after rejecting a two-and-a-half year deal with Huddersfield Town. The 23-year-old goalkeeper had played 12 matches in a two-month loan spell, but could not agree personal terms with the First Division club

Motor racing The Minaudi Formula One team has signed the 19-year-old Argentine Es-teban Tuero for next season white Ferran have chosen Luca Badoer, a 26-year-old Italian with 29 Grands Prix hind him, as their lest driver for the

Rugby League

three days after the final round or the European qualifying lournament with the teams drawn from home-based district players. "Because of the Eng-

selectors an opportunity to assess the home-based players ahead of the Scotland and Scotland A matches at the end of January." Scotland play tally in Treviso on 24 January and Scotland A face Northern Transvaal on 23 January. ALLIEO OUNBAR Premiership On

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Featherstone 18 Wakefield 12. Leeds 32 Halifax 14, Wigan 46 St Helens 2.

Rugby Union

The Scottish Rugby Union will hold a trial match at Myreside on 7 January, three days after the final round of the district players. "Because of the Eng-land club programme it's now im-possible to hold a trial match that includes players based in England." said the national coach Richie Dixon. The Scots last held a trial match in 1994. The Scotland director of rugby Jim Teller said: "It will give the

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Second coming of Fritz could be the answer to all our prayers



GAFFER TAPES

He's back. Fritz Unstartz is ing as well after the unfortunate hack at the Old Cornfield. The whole club has been lifted by the news which was announced on Radio Sludgethorpe's morning phone-in. A constant stream of callers had rung up to complain in the strongest terms that the chairman was a skinflint who never signed anybody and Sir Hirem Firem got so wound up he phoned in and said he was proving everybody wrong by

hringing Fritz back. Unfortunately this wasn't actually true at the time so we had to make a quick phone call to Toriepartie Split, the Balkan side we sold him to two years ago, and come up with a lot of readies to persuade them to do business. You might imagine that this would be a problem but, in between announcing the news and clinching the deal our shares had rocketed. So Sir Hirem sold 10 per cent of his holding at an inflated price, let slip news of a hitch and bought them hack at hottom dollar, then used the profit to buy him. Fritz took a hit of persuad- captain.

circumstances surrounding his departure but he has fallen out of favour with his national boss since leaving these shores and was looking to get back in the limelight to enhance his World Cup chances.

The chairman did have to eat a fair slah of humble pie. If you remember he went on telly to announce he wouldn't use Fritz's old shirt to wipe his hackside after Fritz walked out at the end of his legendary record-breaking season with the club. It soon emerged that Sir Hirem's anger had been provoked by discovering that Fritz had knocked up his 16year-old daughter. This came just days after he had been found cavorting with Sir Hirem's wife on the boardroom table. The chairman might have accepted all of this hut. when Unstartz shamed him by turning up with jeans on at the golf cluh annual dinner he had to go. It cost Sir Hirem who had invited Fritz on to his table - his chance of being club

In the circumstances 1 thought it was very magnanimous of Sir Hirem to begin the press conference by publicly using Fritz's old shirt instead of Andrex - it was just a shame only Channel Four were prepared to show it.

At least that is all behind us now and already the shop is selling out of both Fritz's old No 12 shirt, and the specially printed toiler paper the commercial department rushed out. The ideal stocking filler for our fans, if only the team were Fritz's arrival is very time-

ly as he is brilliant at charactes and we're playing a lot of that right now as we're holed up in a hotel for the Christmas programme, I know Ruud Gullit thinks it is better to let the players home at Yulctide but we had a vote and they'd rather go to a hotel. This is partly due to team-bonding but mainly because most of the lads have young kids and tired wives at home while the hotel we use is staffed by university students on Christmas leave.

that given my own domestic circumstances (the latest from my solicitor is that he has negotiated custody of the electric carving knife but only in return for giving my soon-tohe-ex-wife rights to the microwave. Next step is a meeting to discuss a venue for talks about the CD collection.

At least I've been able to save on the Christmas presents this year. Last year I bought my wife a lovely set of disheloths and a new ironing board and she didn't appreciate them at

Sometimes I wonder if these

lawyers have our best interests

There has been one problem. Broccoli Moore hroke curfew to go round and see an old flame but the locks had been changed. Unfortunately he had a few too many and had the hright idea of chopping down the town square Christmas tree and using it as a hatturing ram to hreak down her door. Mistake No 2 was not knowing she had moved town

I'm not too unhappy with and sold her house to Inspec-

He is a good friend of the club and, like all the season ticket holders, thinks Broccoli is wonderful despite heing the worst £9m signing in football history. He might even have forgiven Broccoli mashing his front door but the tree wasn't a non-drop one and the sight of those pine needles on the floor was the final straw. Now Broccoli has heen charged with theft, assault and resisting arrest and I think we'll have to leave him out today.

We're also without Ivor Niggle, who has heavy bruising following a pre-Christmas fight over the last La-La in the local toyshop. This was compounded by his two-year-old giving him a right going over for coming home without the Teletuhbie doll. Shaun Prone has a head injury after he dozed off in Midnight Mass and fell on the stone floor.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

SIDELINES Rarely trod path

Strange hat true: Touenham have signed as many Argentinians as Arsenal players since the war, while their visitors in tomorrow's



derby currently have more Frenchmen in their squad than they have bought wearers of the north London cockerel over the same period.

There has not been a deal between the clubs since 1977,

Neill's predecessor at Spurs, Bill Nicholson, swapped a £40,000 huy in 1965.

Jimmy Brain, a Welshman in the Arsenal side who lost to Cardiff in the 1927 FA Cup final, left them for Spurs, prime in the lillywhite of the other moh?

Rieper is proud to wear the hoops

The former West Ham defender Marc Rieper is a happy man after swapping life in London's East End for the East End of Glasgow. Simon Buckland reports.

Rieper, who left West Ham for Celtic earlier this season, knows that the next two weeks could make or break his new club's season, as the championshipchasing Celts face St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park today before entertaining the leaders. Rangers, on 2 January.

"I am very pleased with the way the season has gone so far and I feel we would have settled for a point behind in the league and the Coca-Cola Cup," would be out of place in Premiership sides in England.

"Collectively. Celtic, like Rangers and Hearts, would do well in the Premiership, though I still think Scottish football needs greater depth," the Dane added. "There needs to be at regain momentum. Rangers, least six or seven teams chal-

standards both domestically and in European competition."

Rieper knows his Danish team-mate Brian Laudrup remains an inspirational figure at Ibrox and a thorn in Celtic's side, "Brian would be a top star anywhere. That has already been proved heyond any The Danish defender Marc doubt," he said. "He can win games virtually single-handedly and I would say any club in Europe would be proud to have him in their side."

Rieper hopes to return to the Celtic side today, as does the French defender Stéphane Mahe, after missing the 5-0 defeat of Hibernian last weekend because of muscle strains.

Rangers face the one team who have heaten them in the league this season - Dundee United, who were 2-1 winners Rieper said. "I am delighted at Tannadice Park on 25 Octo- end of the season. with the quality of players ber. While the champions will prised me, and I feel none domestic home defeat also came against United: a 1-0 Coca-

Cola Cup quarter-final loss. That was sealed by a magnificent Gary McSwegan volley Celtic, United have struggled to who thumped championship-

lenging at the top to improve chasing Hearts 5-2 last weekend. will again he without a number of key players, with Paul Gascoigne, Gordon Durie and Rino Gartuso all suspended.

The Rangers goalkeeper Andy Goram and their captain. Richard Gough, are still struggling with hamstring injuries, although Junas Thern could return to the midfield. He returned home to Sweden to deal with a family matter and was forced to withdraw from the Tynecastle game. Hearts will be hoping tu get

hack on track against Dunfermline. Their manager, Jim Jefferies, could recall Thomas Flögel. The Austrian striker was left on the bench against Rangers for tactical reasons.

The Republic of Ireland defender Alan Kernaghan is tu stay with St Johnstone until the

Kernaghan has swapped the Scottish Premier Division and is anxious to help the Perth club retain their place in the top flight. The Saints' manager. Paul Sturrock, was anxious to sein extra time but, since losing cure his services on a long-term the final of that competition to hasis, after Kernaghan completed a three-month loan spell last weekend in the 2-1 defeat tu Dundee United.



Marc Rieper, the former Hammer, joins the Celtic party

Photograph: Graham Stuart

Referees and linesmen on receiving end of Iberian anger as Israelis indulge in in-fighting

THE

WORLD

ΒY

RUPERT

METCALF

e into early lead

It seems unlikely that Jesus Gil, the outspoken president of Atletico Madrid, sent too many Christmas cards to referees this year. He was certainly not happy with Miguel Perez Lasa, who took charge of his club's 3-1 Primera Division defeat to Barcelona last weekend.

"It's the limit. I think there was an agreement for them to thrown from the stands. score goals in the second half," Gil raged. "It was rohhery, a scandal. The referee must have been drunk."

This outhurst came only two weeks after top-flight Spanish referees went on strike for one round of fixtures, in protest at abuse from players and chih officials. Last weekend their less

well-off colleagues in the lower levels had to suffer more than verbal attacks. In the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions no fewer than four matches saw referees or linesmen suffer physical assaults. A linesman was concussed

- - Y 12 V 1889

by a full water hottle hurled from the crowd at an Atletico

Pegoso, and a referee was punched in the stomach by a ing each othfan at Puerta Bonita. At Novelda, in the worst in-

cident of the day, a linesman newspaper, the was taken to hospital after he- scrap broke ing hit on the head by a seat out in a taxi "Until one of us is murdered, it does not seem that and the lines-

people are going to be concerned about the seriousness of the situation," Antonio Lopez Reuven Gino Nieto, one of Spain's top referees, said. "This weekend, thank God, don, who has

we all escaped alive hut a just been tragedy could have occurred. awarded a Fifa Referees and linesmen in the lower divisions are playing with their lives each Sunday." Lopez Nieto called for max-

imum jad sentences to be imposed on anyone convicted of assaulting match officials. He in London while you will have did not rule out another strike by referces and linesmen.

ISRAEL

Madrid B-team fixture, an- In Israel last weekend the other was pelted by stones at trouble was not fans assaulting officials - hut linesmen fight-

> er. According to Ha'aretz taking the referee Eyal Tzur men Shai Ossidon and to a league match. Ossi-

AROUND international Gino: "I am

going to officiate in Europe and will do duty-free shopping to make do with Ashdod and Ashkelon. - apparently the

Israeli equivalents of Coventry Mohsen Safuei Farahani, a being worn. Undeterred, the and Barnsley.

Gino, it seems, was not impressed, and the two came to blows and had to be separated by Tzur

and the taxidriver. The referee made a report to the Israeli Referecs' Association, which is investigating the affair.

IRAN

Iran have replaced the head of their Football Asso-Dariush Mostafavi. who

had caused controversy by trying to replace the popular coach. Valdir Vieira, after he led them to the

World Cop finals. Reports in Tehran said that

former official in the min- team managed a lap of honour istries of energy and industry who was on the FA's executive board, has taken over.

Mostafavi. who had held the ARGENTINA post for the past three years, and who officially resigned for "health reasons", had been accused of delaying Iranian preparations for the World Cup linals by seeking to replace Vicira - who is a national hero despite being a Brazilian ~ with either Johan Cruyff or Carlos Bilardo.

COLOMBIA

America Culi players were stripped nearly naked by their fans after they won the Colomciation, firing hian title last weekend.

After a 2-0 win over Bucaramanga which sealed a um, and ignoring the body of 3-ti aggregate success in the Ulises Fernandez stretched championship play-off, hundreds of supporters broke fan turned out to he a godson through a police cordon and stripped all the America players of their kit and any jewellery

- draped in flags. It was their first title since 1992.

Argentina is setting up a special police unit with powers to deal with worsening football violence after a fan was shot dead at a First Division match.

A decree will make the fight against violence the direct responsibility of the government's Security Department, which will set up a database of known hooligans.

Cup-winning side of 1978.

Last Friday, a 24-year-old fan of San Lorenzo was shot in the head at a game against Huracan. A police helicopter filmed fans polting each other with stones outside the stadiout on the ground. The dead of Uhaldo Fillol. the goalkeeper with Argentina's World

kind of sport where home · tion place. Crewe, in 11th players invited visitors to , place a year ago, beat Brent-Christmas lunch. Jürgen Klinsmann at Ian Wright's :

Watford and Bristol City beware.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS **Transfers**

Jason Bowen (forward) Birmingham to Reading \$200,000)

Loans/trials

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Oraw date: 24/12/97. The winning numbers: 5, 6, 11, 29, 36, 41. Bonus number: 47. Total Sales: £35,641,748. Prize Fund: £16,038,786 (45% of ticket sales)

| CATEGORY | NO. OF WINNERS | EACH WINNER | TOTAL EACH HER |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---|
| | 2 | £2.491.514 | £4,983.028 |
| Malch 6 (Jackpot) | | £255.539 | £1 533.234 |
| Match 5 plus benus ball | 691 | £1.386 | 1957.726 |
| Match 5 | 36,750 | £57 | £2.094 750 |
| Match 4 | 645,604 | £10 | 16,456,040 |
| Match 3 | 683.053 | T | £10 024,778 |
| Camelot Group bic. Players must be 16 or | over. | Bry Akage (policus | rounded dimen to neutroit £3 - £12 to 5 |

IT COULD BE YOU. 🍓 THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

165 days... and counting until the start of the World Cup finals

There was bad news this week for the Derby County defender, Igor Stimac, when Croetia's coach, Mirostav Blazevic, named a prefirminary squad of 30 players for the World Cup finals in France. Stimac, who has spent much of the season injured, was one of three players dropped from the squad. The others were the former Nortingham Forest defender, Nikola Jerlan, and Nikola Jurcevic. "We need some fresh blood to rejuverable the team," Blazevic said. The three missing men had been discarded, he added, for reasons of lack of form, age and health problems. The squad will be reduced to 22 players in time for the finals.

— Rubert Metcolf

twixt N5 and N17

and even then it was a free transfer. Pat Jennings, after 472 games in Spurs' goal, was deemed to he past it, yet went on to amass a 237 appearances in eight years at Arsenal. Willie Young and Steve Walford made the same move that year, the two centre-hacks reuniting with Terry Neill, the ex-Gunner who knew their capabilities from his two years as manager at White Hart Lane.

Jimmy Robertson for Arsenal's David Jenkins in 1968 one of his less auspicious signings - and the last Highhury player for whom their rivals paid a fee was Laurie Brown,

while the England forward George Hunt made the opposite switch 10 years later. The great Arsenal winger Joe Hulme managed Spurs after the war - but how many wearing red and white tomorrow are aware that that the club's greatest manager, Herbert Chapman, reached his playing

Ten things Wolves Mixu Paatelainen, might be missing today



1 The world's finest vod- 6 The hundreds of thouka. So potent that the famous Rajamaki distillery used to make anti-tank "cocktail" weapons and pure alcohol motor fuel. 2 Winters so inspiring they drive you to existential poetry and deep contemplation. And sul-

3 Manie summers. Mostly spent drinking vodka. 4 The national trait, sisu, meaning gutsy or resilient. Needed at Molineux. 5 The delights of reindeer, 9 Finnish humour. Inother indigenous species.

sands of young. Swedish women looking to spend money and have a good time that are the largest single group of tourists to Finland. (West Midlands tourists come mainly from the East Midlands.) 7 The state beer, wine and

spirit outlet, Alko. 8 Kristiioakaupunki, an unspoilt town founded in 1649. Its narrowest street, Catwhipper's Lane, is 299cm wide.

10 The real Santa Claus Best enjoyed stewed, and of Finnish Lapland. Rosyaccompanied with vodka. cheeked and happy.

NAME OF THE GAME No 15: INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE

The newest club in British league football was born three years ago out of an amalgamation of Inverness Caledonian and Inverness Thistle. Both clubs dated back to the last century and the merger, after decades of rivalry, created great local controversy. After amalgamation the club joined the new Scottish Third Division in 1994, and won promotion last season.





Second Division table as it

The leaders were Brent-

ford, who were one point

neither of the top two won

play-off hopes a year ago, are

Bury went on to win pro-

motion, with Stockport (fifth

ford in the play-off final.

ahead of Luton, who them-

On 25 December 1946. Anyone needing a reminder Tottenham played Coventry: of what a difference a year away in a Second Division: can make should look at the game and lost 3-0. The next afternoon. was after the Boxing Day

Spurs entertained Coventry programme 12 months ago. in the second part of the traditional Yulctide-Boxing Day double-header and managed to achieve a result 'selves were five points clear that would be welcome at the . of third-placed Bury. Yet moment - a 0-0 draw. On the same dates, promotion and 12 months Barnsley drew 4-4 with hater they are both languish-

Southampton, again in the ing around the relegation Second Division, and The zone. Buruley, who had high Dell rematch ended 1-1, while Crystal Palace of the also struggling to get away Third Division (South), won from the foot of the table. 6-I at home to Torquay, then lost 2-1 the next day. It is interesting to imag- after Boxing Day) taking ine football still being the the other automatic promo-

Viorei Moldovan (forward) G Zurich to Coventry (£3,25m)

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Hards, Paul Newman e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

Derby County Newcastle United ...

entering the championship race had not expired before vesterday. only the most optimistic of spokesmen for their cause would quarrel with that estimation now. With this defeat, Kenny Dalglish's side are 20 points adrift of Manchester United and may even find a Uefa Cup place a tall target if their ineffectiveness in from of goal is allowed to persist much longer.

Yesterday, Dalglish relied on Ian Rush and Jon Dahl Tomasson to supply a cutting edge, leaving Jobn Barnes, Faustino Asprilla and Temur Ketsbaia on the substitutes' bench, an indication, perhaps, that he is already looking towards the FA Cup as the most realistic route towards a successful season.

In the event, the veteran and the novice represented a toothless combination, troubling Derby's defence not once between them. They were replaced after an hour, but then the dismissal of David Batty ruined Dalglisb's plans.

well below par. The goalscorer Stefano Eranio, whose penalty after two minutes proved the decisive moment, was replaced at half-time after struggling to cope against Keith Gillespie's pace, while Francesco Baiano was also taken off.

The bome side's most fluent move, in fact, was the une that led them to take an early lead. launched by a one-two between Baiano and Eranio and nicely und Tomasson, giving Asprilla extended by Paulo Wanchope and Ketsbaia 30 minutes in and Dean Sturridge before Des Hamilton's late challenge sent Sturridge sprawling. Eranio slotted the spot kick wide of Shaka Hislop's left hand.

sought iu underscore their early supremacy. Eranio was foiled just - by Hislop's reactions after an exquisite chip from Wanchope sent the Italian clear; then Sturridge, alert to the possibilities when Alessandro Pis-

Mike Rowbattom

Leicester City

Strictly speaking, the sides were

separated by a 25-yard volley

from Steve Walsh. But it was un-

usual in two respects. The ball

travelled nearly 25 yards up-

wards before dropping into the

goal. And it fell into Walsh's

tifying moment came in the 56th

minute as he and his defensive

partner Matt Elliott - barassed

cover a huge punt upfield from

Steve Bould. Before the ball hit

the ground, Walsh attempted a

clearance and sent the ball high

by lan Wright - chased back to minute shot acrobatically

over his backtracking keeper. the line in uncharacteristic anx-

Itzhak Zohar has done little to jury, "Bruce was not confident

supporters since his £1.2m enough power," he said. "So

move from Antwerp in the Zohar stepped up. Unfortu-

tional stepped up to take a perley, whose 62nd-minute

The Leicester captain's mor-

Arsenal ...

own goal.

Paul Newman

Crystal Palace ..

Southampton

endear himself to Crystal Palace

summer and his reputation

sunk to a new low at Selhurst

Park yesterday. With 11 minutes

remaining, the Israeli interna-

penalty which would have giv-

en Palace their first home vic-

tory of the season, but his

weakly struck shot was com-

fortably saved by Paul Jones.

spot-kick somewhat fortuitously

when he went down under Ja-

son Dodd's clumsy challenge.

Bruce Dyer had carned the

tone's attempted clearance went backwards, missed narrowly with a dipping volley.

Having survived this passage without further loss, however. Newcastle steadily took If Newcastle's chance of re- control and Dalglish resisted the temptation to effect an immediate change of plan. Barnes and Asprilla, rested ahead of tomorrow's encounter with Liverpool, remained on the bench.

None the less, for all their possession. Newcastle could not threaten the home goal more than occasionally. They might have considered themselves unlucky when John Beresford's strike was deflected on to the bar, but this was a rare moment of real anxiety for Derby in the opening half.

Derby, meanwhile, lacked much of their regular fluency, giving the ball away time and again as passes failed to find their target, with Wanchope and Baiano the most frequent offenders.

Yet Newcastle failed to take advantage. Indeed, more than once Derby seemed poised to extend their lead. They might have done before balf-time when Darryl Powell, released by Baiano, chose to shoot rather than give Wanchope the ball in space; they should bave done 10 For their part, Derby were minutes after the break when Sturridge, shaking off Stuart Pearce, clipped the post.

Moments after that let-off, Hislop, again preferred to Sbay Given, justified his place with a splendid save after Wanchope's cross from the right had reached Lee Carsley at the far post.

By now, Newcastle's supporters were pining for Asprilla and Dalglish soon answered their calls, taking off both Rush which to turn things around.

When Asprilla sent Hamil-Poom to race swiftly from his season after eight minutes. But Newcastle might have gone a dividend for Newcastle, but clair was punished when further behind within the open- the dismissal of Batty after a sec- Michael Hughes raced onto ing 15 minutes as the home side ond yellow card three minutes his woeful backpass to claim later came as a critical blow. Derby County (3-5-1-2), Poorts Yakes, Servac, Pou-ett Eromo (Laurson, 1-4), Caralley, D. Powell, C. Pou-ett, Balano, Myllome, 671; Shurridge, (Burcon, 1-6), Warrchope, Substituting pot uned: Kozduk, Houlf (g/s.

of these team's last meeting

back in August with an equalis-

er in the sixth minute of injury

time, stared fixedly at the

ground as Highbury erupted

tween mirth and celebration.

into a noise somewhere be-

up - David Platt's near-post

beader from Dennis Berg-

kamp's free-kick had put them

into the lead after 36 minutes

but they were unable to close

the match down, even though

Marc Overmars could claim

he was unlucky to have a 68th-

cleared off the line by Robbie

to their manager, Steve Coppell.

Dyer left it to Zohar because he

was suffering from an unkle in-

that he could hit the ball with

Zohar had come on the field

midway through the second

half as a substitute for Neil Ship-

equaliser had raised Palace's

hopes of securing their first

home win since victory over

Wolves in the First Division

Palace have been ravaged by

nately he missed it."

play-offs in May.

Indeed, they had their man-

That put the home side 2-0

Wimbledon ... Harsb reality came in from the cold to cloud Chelsea's title dreams as Joe Kinnear's side spoiled the Stamford Bridge

festivities. Gianluca Vialli's early strike looked to have put his side on the winning trail again when he ion clear and required Mart collected his 12th goal of the line, it seemed there might be a shocking error by Frank Sinonly his second goal since mov

> Even Gianfranco Zola's infailed to lift Rund Gullit's men tribution was woeful, the worst to the victory they needed to culprit.

matched Walsh's, Bould, pre-

sented with the hall deep in his

own half, decided a pass back

to his keeper was the best op-

tion, but the ball was struck with

too much force and David Sea-

man, with attackers uncom-

fortably close, miscontrolled it.

Seamon almost recovered in

grand style as he dribbled past

Emile Heskey and, almost, Tony

Cottee, but Muzzy Izzer was

able to take the ball past Sea-

man's last despairing lunge and

square it for Neil Lennon to roll

settle the unease which Seaman

has displayed in recent weeks.

but Wenger did not hlame him

four of our players involved." he

Palace left waiting after Zohar spots trouble

over the line.

ager, Arsene Wenger, pacing entirely. "There were three or

Kelsey Keller, and into the net. icty after letting Leicester back said. "It was not an easy kick for things, going offside, losing

Lacklustre Arsenal helped by wayward Walsh

who had decided the outcome generosity which almost

keep the pressure on Manchester United and Blackburn. It meant that Chelsea have now dropped four points in their last two home matches after dropping just three out from their

Wimbledon's Stale Solbakken (left) and Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux compete for possession at Stamford Bridge yestero

And for Kinnear it was yet Crazy Gang spirit can hold its own against clubs with far more for the scrapbook. Far from it,

Given the history of bad blood between the teams, the funchtime crowd might have exopening stages. Instead, one crethe two teams seemingly caught up in the post-Christmas hangtroduction from the bench over, with Sinclair, whose dis-

100 per cent responsible."

Thus undermined. Arsenal

- never convincing - became ab-

ject and the visitors might, and

should, have equalised as they

as Arsenal's recent fortunes.

The most exeruciating moment

for the hulk of the 38.032 crowd

came in the 82nd minute when

Elliott's near-post header from

a corner hit the inside of the far

post before ricocheting past

the startled Walsh on the line

terrible," Wenger said, "It made

unable to keep the ball. I could

feel that we had not the psy-

chological and mental strength

"We were doing the wrong.

"The last 10 minutes were

hefore being cleared.

to keen our calm.

Chelsea's side - Danny Granville and Flo - produced some good moments and were both involved as their side claimed the eighth-minute lead. Granville, in for Mark Nicholls another example of how that with Graeme Le Saux pushed forward, played the ball up the left flank. Flo spun superbly to resources. Not that this was one leave Dean Blackwell for dead, to di Mattee, who lorced a fine and his perfect pass was simply

er, the two men drafted into

converted by Vialli. special perhaps, yet that was start of the second half, and deabout as good as it got. Ed de pected a bit more passion in the Goey was barely employed. Wimbledon's decision to with- just as likely to score the next ing across London from West Flo aside, it was dreadful stuff, midfield, leaving Marcus Gayle on his own up front, meaning they made very fittle headway.

Unfortunately for Sinclair and Chelsea, however, they did not need to, as Highes reaped

solutely nervous, because it was

morrow's derby match at Tot-

good for Arsenal at the mo-

ment. They will be without Ian

Wright, who started a two-

match suspension after this

game. They are also likely to be

without Plan, whose early op-

portunism provided the game

with one of its brightest mo-

ments. The experienced mid-

minutes with a grain injury.

Arsenat: (4-4-2) Seaman, Duon, Neown,
Bould, Winterburn, Parlour, Viera, Plati
(Hughes 58) Diermans: Wingle (Anella, 75),
Bergharry Substitutions not used: Marringer
(gh) Upson Marshall
Loicester City; (4-4-2) Heier, Savage, Elloit Washing Guopy Earl Lennon, Campbell
(Parker, 60). Clandge (Cottee, 69), Heisley
Substitution not used: Fenton Arpnevad
(gh), Wisson

crucial for us to win."

exploited a wind as fluctuating tenham. But it doesn't look

In the early stages, bowey- the benefit of the defender's for the Blues, Robbie Earle blunder, rounding De Goey to stroke home in the 28th minute.

It was the first bome league goal Chelsea had conceded in open play since Nigel Winterburn's thunderbolt for Arsenal in mid-September, and they did look to respond before the interval. Dan Petrescu and Le Saux combining to feed Rober-

save from Neil Sullivan. Vialli emerged with a ban-A platform for something dage on his right hand at the spite Chelsea dominating possession. Wimbledon seemed Petrescu went wide, but it was Gavle who came closest, shrugging Granville aside before striking a left-footer into the

side-netting.

blocking one shot from the little Sardinian before he brought Sullivan to his knees with a left-Phil Casey footer, but most of the game was

midfield battle. Wimbledon, with their young striker Carl Cort on for Gayle, still louked dangerous, even though Chelsea threw mure and more men forward. Wise missed a sitter nine minutes from time - the flag was up in any event - and Leboeuf's speculative effort dropped on top uf Sullivan's net. Yet the goal was not going to come, as Chalesce De Goley Piereson, Lebourd Voll (2014.
51) Wise, Duberry Le Saux, Di Medica, Cramville, Pio, Snober IS Clarke, 57), Substitution not used: Lambourde, Hichcook, (9s), Nicholes, Wilmblodon: Sullivan, Cummigham, Kimble, Jones, Blackwell, Thasther, Earle, Sofisiken, Gevier (Cort, 67), M. Hughes, Anthey Substitution not used: Heald (gils), Castivotne, Jupp, A Carde.

broke free of a bemused Coven-

neatly past Magnus Hedman.

tre of their back line, his tack-

ling and marshalling of John

Hartson belying the striker's sta-

Dublin and he was critical of his

young strike pairing of Darren

Huckerby and Noel Whelan, He

intends looking for reinforce-

ments, "We've soured only three

goals away from home this sea-

son and quality is putting the

ball in the back of the net." Stra-

chan said. "We need to add

some quality to the team and

Stan Lazaridis, back from in-

we'll try our best to do that."

and cross a ball that tantalisingly

hit the inside of the far post as

a wrong-footed Hartson nar-

rowly missed the rebound.

Again it was Dublin who

released by Lampard on the

right, cut inside but shot straight

into Hedman's midrift.

er from Hartson's pass.

Two minutes later, Hartson,

Later in the match Kitsun

missed a gift of a chance when

put clean through on the keep-

West Ham United (3-5-2), Forrest, Pearce, Ferdinand, Unsworth; Impey Lomas, Lampard Berkovitch (Ports, 3-2), Lazarde, Kilson, Hartson Substitutes not used: About Rowland Paulo Aives Lama (ck.)

Coventry City (3-5-2) Hedman Shaw, Dublin, Hall, Telfer, O'Neil Bostlern; Misson, Shillon Muckerby, Whelan, Substitutes: Boland, Lightbourne, Haworth, Sollvedt, Ogrzove (gk.)

cleased.

Strachan denied he is to sell

tus as makeshift defender.

taking place in a congested

the cut and thrust

Sloppy Sinclair highlights home truths for Blues Bergsson strikes from long range

Photograph: David Ashdown

Bolton Wanderers Barnsley

The Boltun captain, Gudni Bergsson, scored an extraordinary goal to give his side a share of the points at the

Reebok Stadium yesterday. Georgi Hristov gave the visitors the lead after 19 minutes. The Macedonian international was the quickest to Gullit's body language seemed react after Darren Sheridan taken free-kick to fire in a shot that Gavin Ward could only parry, and Hristov stooned to

head in from five yards out. Bergsson levelled the scores eight minutes before the interval. Barnsley failed to clear Sellars' corner and the ball fell tu him on the right hand side, some 40 yards from goal. A cross into the crowded area looked certain but Bergsson let fly and David Watson was powerless to prevent the bidl reaching the top

try defender on the edge of the corner. area and found Kitson in the Ashley Ward went close clear. Kitson drilled the hall with a spectacular overhead kick in the first minute and af-West Ham should have proter six minutes blasted over on ceeded to press their advantage the turn. Clint Marcelle then against an injury-depleted sent Hristov racing clear only Coventry side. Yet Dion Dublin for the 21-year-old to hit the stexed tall and defiant in the cen-

side-netting. Marcelle was again the provider on 17 minutes when his header put Hristov past the last defender. The Macedonian was unlucky to see his shot come back off the foot of the

Just as Barnsley had dominated the first half. Bolton took charge of the second period, with Per Frandson creating their hest two chances.

Two minutes after the restart his low drive from the edge of the penalty area forced

a smart low save from Watson. Frandsen then supplied the ternational duty with Australia. cross which saw Nathan Blake posed an erratic threat but he flash a diving header just wide managed to gallop to the hyline of the far post.

Barnsley were struggling to get out of their own half but the home side lacked the necessary guile to break down stubborn resistance.

They could count themselves unlucky not to have taken the lead after 76 minutes, however, Frandson's free-kick from just outside the area crashing against the bar before being scrambled away. A minute later Blake outstripped

the defence, only to lire into the side netting. Softon Wanderers: Ward Francisen, Policick, Sellars, Blake, Bertsson, Leardsley, Johansen IGLimitaugsson, £8) Todd, Fish Taggart, £2: Cox, 67, Whitlow Substitutes not used: Ceft.

daaskednen (gk.) Barnsley: Wassen, Earlen, Sheridan, Missel, De Zeerus, Redfeam, Marcete (Luddell, 73, Th-lier, Hristov (Hendre, 67), Barnard, Ward, Sob-stitutes not used: T Bullock (gkt, Appleby,

Zola provided some spark Returns 6 5 Whard (Worthness Kitson provides

Nor the least reason for that Andrew Mortin was to steady the nerves for to-West Ham United...

After the previous day's diet of turkey the thought of picking

view at Upton Park yesterday. fielder timped off after 58

> struggled. His Coventry counterpart, Gordon Strachan, has cause for greater concern. The dismissal of the midfielder George Boateng after an indisciplined lunge from behind on Frank Lampard carned him a second

with an injured knee shortly before the end of the first half. The Israeli is doubtful for tomor-

But first Lampard's pass had found Berkovitch, who in typically beguiling manner

Coventry City

through the cold left-overs would have been more appealing than the footballing fare on

After a Paul Kitson gold had provided West Ham with a breakthrough in the 10th minute, a turkey of a match ensued. That Harry Redknapp saw his side achieve an 11th win in 12 games at home will have provided little measure of comfort. Against a 10-man Coventry of little ability and even less ambition. West Ham

booking nine minutes into seeand half means that Coventry have now had four players sent off this senson. It was only Boateng's second start since arriving from Feyenoord for £250,000. Three other Coven-

row's game against Wimbledon.

try players were booked by the referee, Graham Poll. Lampard, it was, who kept the Hammers ticking after their key creative force in midfield, Eyal Berkowitch, trudged off

ball from Dyer, Palace's regu- Southampton the lead six min- exert any sort of control. Andy had managed in the whole lar penalty-taker, but according utes before the interval. Dodd's cross from the right did not uppear to pose any threat but Oakley volleyed it first time into the net from the edge of the area. side's best spell.

The incident did nothing to - me nervous because we were

The big Leicester defender. Into the game with a piece of David to control, and he was not casy balls. That made me ab-

Palace should have been ahead by that stage, having snumed two excellent early opportunities. After only five minutes. Dver just beat Jones to the ball after Shipperley had headed down a cross by Andy Linighan, but his shot hit the far post and bounced away to safe-Four minutes later. Dver left Claus Lundekvam standing with a neat turn but with only Jones to beat he pulled his shot wide.

With Rory Ginty, a young injuries in recent weeks and winger, playing wide on the right. Palace had only two men ed more opportunities in his 25 their patchwork team did well to get back into the match alin midfield and Jamie Fullarton minutes on the puch than the Zohar appeared to snatch the ter Matthew Oakley had given and Simon Rodger struggled to rest of the Southampton side

the hour and his intelligent prompting sparked the home

The equaliser came when Shipperley hundled the hall home at the far post after Dean Gordon had flicked on Rodger's corner. Shipperley almost scored a second two minutes later when his shot flew just past the post, but after the former Southampton striker went off injured in the 71st minute are to stay in the Premiership the home side rarely threatened.

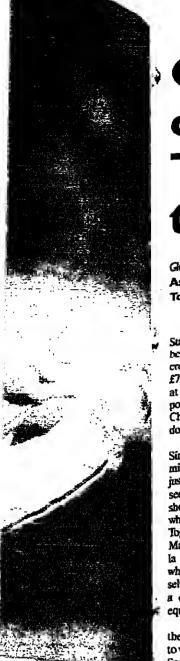
Southampton might have snatched victory in the closing stages. Kevin Davies, who had come on as a substitute, creat-

Roberts, who started as a wing-match. One exhibitaring run hy back, moved into midfield on Davies ended with a crisp shot which was well held by Kevin Miller and Paul Warhurst headed another effort off the line.

Davies, however, was the only Southampton forward who posed any major threat. Matthew Le Tissier drifted in and out - mostly out - and David Hirst rarely found the space in which to work. Like Palace. Southamptim appear to have a struggle ahead if they come next May,

Crystal Palace: (5-3-2) Maler, Roberts, Un-rghan, Warhurs, Hierdanson, Gordon, Can-ly, Rodger, Fullarion (Burton 55); Dyer, Shaperiey (Zohar 71 Subatifutes not uped: Nash (gk) Emblen, Quent uped: Nash (sy) Ember, Quert, Southampton; H-4-2; Jones, Dodd, Monk-ou Lundekvam Benaf, Oaldey (Stater, 85), Richardson Palmer Le Tisser (Williams, 81), Hrsu, Osenshad (Devies 55), Subetituties not used: Moss (gk.), Hughes, Referee: P E Alcock (Redhill),

PO CH



ues Bergsson strikes from long range

rust

Collymore capitalises on Tottenham's troubles

Genn Moore

Tottenham Hotspur I

Stan Collymore put his troubles behind him yesterday to increase Tottenham's woes. The £7m striker, whose depression at his lack of goals was compounded by being arrested on Christmas Eve, scored twice to double his season's tally.

Collymore's first came from Simon Grayson's cross eight minutes from the end. That was just a couple of yards out hut his second, a 30-yard free-kick, showed how dangerous he is when his confidence is restored. Together with a hrace from Mark Draper, they earned Villa victory over a Spurs team which had briefly hauled themselves back into the match with controversial 58th-minute equaliser by Colin Calderwood.

The failure of any team in the Premiership's bottom half to win earlier in the day meant Spurs went into their fixture knowing victory could lift them to the heady heights of 15th. But first they had to secure their first. victory at Villa Park in 11 seasons, no easy task for a team that had only won away once all season, Les Ferdinand was absent with a knee injury so Steffan Iversen, himself carrying an injury, had to play in attack with David Ginola.

Villa fielded Collymore despite being charged with assault following an alleged incident on a girlfriend's doorstep on Christmas Eve. With Dwight Yorke injured and Julian chipped Fernando Nelson's Joachim, like Gareth Southgate, a victim of the flu, Brian Little had little alternative.

Collymore started enthusiastically, if Inaccurately, shooting over in the fourth minute. He then drifted in and out of the game, reappearing after 30 minutes to drag a shot wide hut otherwise looked short of control and confidence.

Tottenham's own mercuria 'genius", Ginola, was even more anonymous, contributing nothing of note in the first half. Spurs one attempt on goal, a header just past the post on 12 minutes, was created by Ruel

Villa's own attacking prospects hinged on getting the ball around. This proved difficult but with seven minutes left in the half, Milosevic was released on the right and he was able to pick out Mark Draper at the far post to outjump Steve Carr and head his fourth goal in over 80 Villa ap-

Given Spurs' recent propensity to collapse in the second half, their fans would have heen somewhat nervous during the hreak hut they restarted in positive mood. Ginola, presumably on another promise of a bottle of champagne from the manager Christian Gross, began to stir and Ugo Ehiogu was booked as Villa tried to deal with him.

This led to a fair amount of Gallic diving and, inevitably, the Villa fans were soon booing him. It was not long before they had more reason for anger as, 13 minutes into the half, Tottenham controversially scored. Camphell headed a Ginola free-kick to Fox whose fierce volley brought a fine save from Mark Bosnich. The ball ran to Clemence whose shot was deflected in, not entirely accidentally, by Colin Calderwood's left arm. Villa's horrified players surrounded the referee, David Wilkie, but the goal stood.

Seven minutes later, the referee was again beseiged as Carr handled just outside the penalty area. Collymore promptly thumped the free-kick into the wall. Almost immediately, however, he redeemed himself as he cross goalwards. Walker, at full stretch, gathered, only to drop the ball under pressure from his team-mate Allan Nielsen. Draper joyfully tapped in.

Now Anderton came on hut Villa finished the stronger. They remain in mid-table obscurity but, unlike Spurs, the New Year will not be approached with dread.



Andy Marshall, the Norwich City goalkeeper, reaches in vain as Keith Jones' shot heads for the post at The Valley yesterday in Charlton's 2-1 victory

Photograph: Peter lay

Profligacy of Sutton denies premier pretenders

earning his place at the expense

Derick Allsob Sheffield Wednesday0 Blackburn Rovers0

Although Blackburn Rovers were restored to second place in the Premiership after this goalless draw, Wednesday will

Both teams discarded chances like unwanted Christmas gifts, Chris Sutton alone contriving to forsake the prospect of a second-half hattrick. Defeat, however, would have been particularly cruel for Ron Atkinson's side.

Wednesday, too, ran up a catalogue of wasted openings and with more self-belief might have avenged the 7-2 indignity

they suffered at Ewood Park earlier this year.

as it does in the wake of two consecutive defeats, will help ease the nerves and reinforce morale at Hillsborough. Atkinson was dismayed at his players' meek capitulation against Chelsea last weekend. Yestersurely be the more content to day they showed real commitsalvage a point from this match ment as they confronted the of squandered opportunities. other chief pretenders to Man-

> style and swagger of Ruud Gullit's exotic ensemble, but they are, in Alkinson's view, notentially more durable challengers. ed the responsibility of pro-Rovers' familiar power and discipline was evident in periods of this match and they are unlikely to relent when conditions be-

Blackburn's vihrant openings suggested a goal feast And yet this result, coming might unfold. Damien Duff,

of Jason Wilcox, fizzed a shot across Kevin Pressman's goal after Peter Atherton inadvertently wrong-footed his own de-Wednesday's repose was a brief but frenzied spell of pressure. Dejan Stefanovic's centre from the left unsettled Blackchester United's title. burn and Petter Rudi's languid Blackburn may not flaunt the skills almost found a way through. He was eventually

defied on the line hy Gary Croff. Benito Carbone, nanoviding some Italian invention in the absence of the suspended Paolo di Canio, had an overhead effort scrambled away at come less clement than they have been so far this winter.

the far post. Blackburn recovered their

GM Vauxhall Conference

composure and a semblance of bone, but his tame shot was their trademark order. Presssmothered by Alan Fettis. The keeper, standing in for the inman, a goalkeeper in need of a good performance, was at hand jured Tim Flowers, again came quickly off his line to frustrate to push out a shot from Stuart Ripley as the winger, flushed Wednesday. with scoring success, threatened to plunder a second goal after heading wide, hut Jon Newsome, venturing to the othin three and a half years. Peter er end, had greater cause for Atherion swept away the loose ball as Kevin Gallacher arrived contrition when he somehow

to scavenge. Pressman made a more spectacular save to beat away Chris Sunton's fierce shot from 20 yards early in the second half. Had Sutton applied anything hack after 53 minutes Pressman would have been powerless. Sutton then lifted Ripley's corner high into the stands.

Mark Pemhridge hrought Wednesday relief and fresh hope with a through ball to CarLEAGUE **Boro boosted**

Gallacher was exasperated

failed to turn in the ball fol-

lowing a free kick. Blackburn

bombarded Wednesday at the

end, Sutton hilting a post. Gal-

lacher blazing over and the ref-

eree intervening when they did

Blackburn Flowers (4-2): Fetts: Kornin, Hen chaz, Hendry, Croft; Ripby (Filteroft, 90), McKin lay, Sharwood, Duff (Willow, 84); Sutton Gallacine; Subalillurian not used: Parlemen, Williams (gk).

by Gray's misfortune

NATIONWIDE

Middlesbrough stayed at the top of the First Division by beating Huddersfield at the McAlpine Stadium, but it took an own goal by Kevin Gray in the 76th minute to secure the victory.

Nottingham Forest's Kevin Camphell scored twice in 22-minute spell in a 3-0 victory over Swindon Town that maintained the pressure on the the third before the hreak.

A crowd of 40,055 at the Stadium of Light saw Kevin Phillips and Allan Johnston give Sunderland a 2-0 victory over Bradford City.

Crewe Alexandra notched a notable 1-0 victory over Manchester City to move out of the relegation zone and increase the pressure on City's manager, Frank Clark. Paul Holsgrove sealed the victory after 19 minutes when be swept the ball home after Dele Adebola's effort had been charged down.

Sheffield United left it late at Stoke City to earn a 2-2 draw. Garcth Taylor had given the Blades a 59th-minute lead, hut Richard Forsyth and Peter Thorne struck back and looked to have given Chic Bates' side the win. Brian Deane, however, scored in the dying seconds to give the visitors a point.

Two goals in three minutes gave Chariton Athletic a 2-1 victnry over Norwich City at The Valley. Mark Kinsella and John Rohinson put the home side in charge, but the Canaries hit back with an 81st-minute penalty from Crysial Palace target Craig Bellamy. However, Norwich could not force an equaliser and to compound their misery had Mike Milligan sent off for a second bookable offence in the final minute.

West Bromwich Albion missed the chance to move into third place in the table, albeit for a few hours, when Reading scored a 2-1 victory over them at Elm Park, The Royals noened the scoring in the first minute when Albion's Australian defender Andrew McDermon deflected a Martin Williams cross into his own net. Williams then added a second in the 27th minute when he crept behind the Alhion defence to give Reading a two-goal lead. West Brom, under their new manager, Denis Smith, fought back in the second half, but Kevin Kilbane's 77tbminute goal was not enough.

Don Goodman grahbed the points for Wolves by scoring the only goal of their game at managerless Oxford United, the club Smith left bebind, in the 19th minute.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

| FA Carling Premiership Arsenal (1)2 Leicester (0)1 Platt 38 Lennon 77 |
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| Liverpool (0)3 Leeds (3) |
| Man Utd (2)2 Everton (0)0 Berg 14 55,167 Cole 35 |
| Sheffield Wed0 Blackburn0 33,502 |
| . West blom in a Computer in |
| West Ham (f)1 Coventry (0)0 Kitson 17 24,532 Coventry's George Bosteng sent off, 55 |
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SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier DW JEWSON SOUTH WESTERN LEAGUE: Bod-mn Town 2 Watebridge Town 0; Holsworthy 1 Launession 0; St Austell 0 St Blazey 1; Tor-point Athleta 2 Millsrook 0 Postponed: Fel-mouth v Turo City, Porthleven v Penzance; Sallash v Listeerd. Satiss Y Listoerd.
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OFF IRISH LEAGUE Premi allymens 2 Colerans 2; Glet 1; Portadown 2 Glenavon 1 Offtonville v Crusaders

Saturday 27 December 1997



Chips with everything: Andy Cole scores Manchester United's second goal against Everton at Old Trafford yesterday, the striker's deft touch lifting the champions six points clear at the top of the Premiership

Cole's confidence compounds Everton's seasonal misery

Guy Hodgson

CILETTE CENTRE CONTRACTOR

Manchester United

Alex Ferguson denies it vigorously bottom and second rate. but Manchester United are disappearing into the distance while bare- scribe United, whose higgest enemy them six points clear at the top of the cency, a danger that Ferguson is Premiership and the most difficult hurdle they had to face yesterday was getting their supporters through the he wrote in the programme. "The Trafford Park streets, closed because of gale damage.

were not so much beaten as slaughtered, the scoreline flattering them of trap." to a face-lifting degree. You try to find reasons for believing they will escape relegation - but with per-

formances like this it is very hard. It was not as if United had their strongest side out. Peter Schmeichel had a slight back strain and Teddy get all afternoon.

rested. The visitors, too, were short of key players but these days even an Gary Speed and Duncan Ferguson hardly inspire fear. They are second

would appear to be comaware of. "It is poppycock to talk about winning the title by March." memory of losing that 12-point lead to Blackburn and slipping up against As for Everton, forget it. They Leeds on the last lap is burned into me too deeply to fall into that kind

> day. Kevin Pilkington made only his third Premiership start, but frankly Schmeichel could have played such was the lack of threat from Everton. They managed only one shot on tar-

Sheringham and Ryan Giggs were

That is not how you would de-

Certainly they avoided it yester-

Francis Jeffers the club's second youngest player after Joe Royle by Everton team with Slaven Bilic, bringing him on as a substitute, the afternoon had only one redeeming characteristic for Everton: they somehow slipped away from Old Trafford without an extra portion of

Christmas stuffing.

down-table debut yesterday.

Brentford's Griffin Park.

voured like a Christmas trifle before

Trafford, the 39-year-old Southall

Apart from making 16-year-old United in front after 13 minutes the Berg put the matter beyond doubt. right wing set Beckham free, his shot match was over as a contest. Shot alter shot rained in on the Everton goal, but only Andy Cole could find Berg's goal came from David

Keeper Southall samples low life with the Shrimpers

tional and the rock of Everton's de- the Second Division club, Southall

Membership of union for

which formal proposal

Musical work in two acts

specially adapted? Noth-

water in Yorkshire home

Watch what you say (11)

Crocks in need of atten-

Place is exquisitely dis-

Winter transport said to amuse greatly (6)

Hot and cold running

may be made (8)

ing in that (7)

tion? (7-2)

tinctive (7)

ried (8)

Beckham's corner from the left which Ronny Johnsen headed into have already crossed the line but

The difference was almost 50,000 Southend's Alvin Martin to bring utes to go, which left the Shrimpers

as Neville Southall, Welsh interna- "stature" and "massive presence" to three places higher than their hosts.

fence for 16 years, made his kept the third-from-bottom Bees at not to have to play out his days in the

a Boxing Day crowd of 55,167 at Old Everton goal, Thomas Myhre, had remains to be seen. No doubt South-

was parading in front of 5,341 at United, and Southall also had the having served a one-match bun, will

Signed on a month's loan by Régis Coulbault scoring with 10 min- the interloper back to Goodison.

As the Toffeemen were de- minute goal from Robert Taylor. agement. Whether this introduction

A minute later Thomas Myhre contoned himself excellently to save Paul Scholes' flamboyant volley and

heading in the rebound from a

range of two feet.

then Craig Short twice had to make Beekham gone for goal it would have blocks from Cole and Ole Gunnar counted, but the extra pass made the Earl Barrett's knee. The ball might Solskjacr. In the 17th minute a love- effort offside. ly pass from Nicky Butt down the

Southall, who is wealthy enough

flicking the bar before going over. After 29 minutes United had the ball in the net again when Solskjaer's cross was met at the far post by Beckham and turned in by Cole. Had

Cole looked mortified by the decision but erased his disappointment five minutes later with a goal that said everything about his newly found selfbelief. A year ago the only chip the £7m striker would have contemplated was one with salt and vinegar on. His confidence gone, he preferred to blast and hope rather than

place shots. It is a different Cole now, however, and when Butt passed to him 20 yards out he looked up, saw Myhre off his line, and beat him with a deft flick of his right foot so sublime it could have had Eric Cantona on he delivery end of it. The Ever-

ton goalkeeper could merely watch it go into the top corner.

Viole don't youn Viole

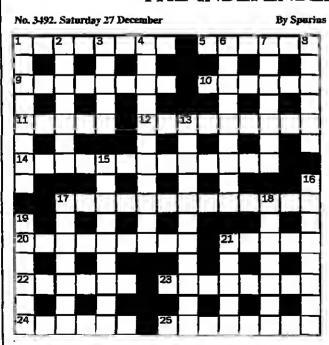
The second-balf should have completed the rout, instead United let Everton off the book. The closest they came to adding to their score was after 51 minutes when Cole's flick gave Solskjaer a run on goal. He had time but no accuracy and his shot skewed horribly wide.

It did not matter, and never looked like it would. United hardly broke sweat vesterday.

"It was an embarrassing 90 minutes," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said. "Men against boys." Manchester United (4-3-1-2): Pilkingtor; G Neville, Berg, Pallister (McClaix, 79, P. Neville (Curts, 62); Beckham (Poborsky, 66), Johnsen, Butt; Scholes; Cole, Solskjaer, Substitutes not used: Sheringham, Giggs. Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Watson (Jef-fers, h-1), Tiler; Barnett (Allen, 65), Oster, Fer-relly, Ball (Thomsen, 78), Hnchofffe; Bermby, Cadamarren, Substitutes not used: Thomas,

More reports, pages 22, 23

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution BIAICINS PIAICIE CINIAISIM 23 Weighty matters of conscience? (8)

ACROSS One will often have a striking exterior (8) Unexpected developments produced by winds, perhaps (6)

cess? (8) Some coarseness evidently rejected by member of religious fraternity (6) One precious metal found in Middle Eastern idol? (5)

12 Lawyers turning sarcastic, talking incessantly (9) Volunteer vigilante pre-13 Braggart making big car go all over the place. senting paper on London tube station? (8.5) inviting trouble? (11)
15 Whereby the hum be-17 Fiddling with computers? Menu items requiring to be processed (7.6) 16 Estimates value of old

20 Nude and/or dressed? Couldn't be plainer (9) 21 Old fellow who'd take the pledge (5) Certain amount of pressure facing island optics expert? (6)

24 Indicate desperate need

tee papers (8)

to devour the scriptures 25 Concentrate on commit-

18 Unravelling of clue inter-rupted by bad girl (7) One prey to nagging

17 Feature about a Greek

comes subdued? (9)

coins oriental vessel car-

leads to embarrassment

doubt may be unsuccess ful in auction (6) 21 Almost certain to get in at Oxford - that's appro-

priate (5) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thurs-The Irist live correct somitions to this week's puzzle opened uext Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E.145BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: A Cowper, Swansea: J Maudsley, Wignar, A Wood, Burnley: P Bealby, Stockton-on-Tees, P Harris, Chester.

Liverpool, who began 1997 David Robertson contrived to had shot wide and headed over as League leaders, will go into

Owen and Fowler finish off Leeds

Phil Shaw Liverpool . Leeds United ..

bay until he was stung by 42nd lower divisions, is keen to go into man-

been beaten twice by Manchester end's regular keeper, Simon Royce.

satisfaction of not being a loser - hope the Premiership bright lights lun:

By that time his successor in the will have encouraged him to start low

Everybody can beat everyone else in the Premiership, George Graham declared before Christmas. His own team, Leeds, continue to provide one of the exceptions to the rule when it comes to taking on Liverpool, for whom Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler maintained an extraordinary ascendancy in

the focture yesterday. Owen, hreaking the deadlock 55 seconds into the second half, and Fowler, with two late goals before Alf inge Haland's reply, consigned Leeds to their customary emphatic defeat at Anfield. They have now won just once in 20 League and Cup visits dating back a quarter of n century to the era of Bill Shankly and Don Revie.

TODAY

THIRTEEN PAGES OF

SPORT

BEGIN ON

PAGE 12

its final game at Newcastle on Sunday lying fourth, 12 points behind Manchester United with a match in hand. While only the wildest dreamers among their fans harbour hopes of the title, the manner in which they eventually overwhelmed Leeds suggested that the runners-up spot and a Champions' League place

is not hevond them. Before a crowd of nearly 44,000 - English football's higgest away from Old Trafford this season - the sides looked evenly matched during the first half. Liverpool had the only genuine chance, when Jason McAteer climaxed a superb, twisting run at the heart of Leeds' defence by haplessly scooping the hall over the har with only Nigel Martyn to heat.

The course of events changed irrevocably immediately after half-time. Robert Molenaur and

rose to meet Steve Harkness's cross, the hall breaking to Oyvind Leonhardsen. His short pass found Owen charging up in support, and the 18-year-old drove his 10th goal of the season past Martyn from 12 yards.

Liverpool, and Fowler in particular, spurned several chances before sealing Leeds' fate with two goals in quick succession. With 11 minutes remaining and Leeds committed to the quest for an equaliser, a move which started with David James bowling the hall out ended with Steve McManaman playing Fowler in to drive home his first goal from open play since 4 November. His second owed everything to Owen's selflessness. Wriggling past two defenders, he laid the hall across for Fowler to steer

home his 11th of the season. Leeds, for whom Jimmy Hasselhaink and David Hopkin

jump into one another as they respectively early in either half, finally scored their second goal in 12 trips to Anfield with six minutes left. Haland, for once leaving McManaman's side, headed in Gary Kelly's freekick, which meant Graham's team have now scored more goals than they managed all last

> Roy Evans, savouring three successive League wins for the first time this season, felt it had been a triumph of patience. Could they still catch United? We need more than three viotories on the trot," the Liverpool manager said. "We could do with 23 wins back-to-back to give us a chance."

Liverpool (4-42): James; McAlser, Kverma, Mattee, Harkness; McManaman, Ince (Carragher, 55). Reckinago (Berger, 55). Leon-hardsen; Owen, Fowler (Riedle, 55). Substitutes not used: Babb, Fride, 65]. Leeds United (4-4-2): Martyn; Halle, Wethed: all, Molanear, Robertson; Kelly, Hookin; Riberte, Halend; Hasselbank, Wellace, Sabstitutes not used: Boryer, Kewel, Lilley, Meybury, Beeney (gic). Referen: S Lodge (Samsley). aten peace

ON MONDAY

TWENTY PAGE SPORT SECTION

Bergkamp, Schmeichel, or Zola? Will your favourite footballer be The Independent's top Premiership player of the Year?

NEXT WEEK 1998 CALENDAR OF SPORT **APPEARS** ON

INDEPENDENT 2 JANUARY

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